THURSDAY
May 8, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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The Hindu Huddle, 2025: India in Dialogue

Schedule, May 9

THE HINDU GROUP

10:00 am
Opening Ceremony

10:15 am - 11:00 am
State and Nation:
Seeking Fairness within Federalism

Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka

In conversation with
Bageshree S.
Resident Editor, The Hindu

11:05 am - 11:50 am
Fortified State:
Balancing National Security with Political Expediency

M.K. Narayanan
Former National Security Adviser, India

T.S. Tirumurti
Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York

Moderated by
N. Ravi
Director, Kasturi & Sons

11:55 am - 12:40 pm
Well-Rounded World View:
Finding a Place for Liberal Education
A Special Session Celebrating Frontline@40

Dr. Bhavani S.
Dean of School of Humanities and Performing Arts, Christ University

Dr. Jonathan Gil Harris
Professor, Ashoka University

Sudheesh Venkatesh
Managing Editor, Azim Premji Foundation

Moderated by
Dr. Srinath Raghavan
Professor, Ashoka University

12:45 pm - 1:30 pm
The Female Gaze:
Redefining Cinema on the Global Stage

Nandita Das
Filmmaker and Actor

Shahana Goswami
Actor

Jeo Baby
Filmmaker

Moderated by
Shilajit Mitra
Film Correspondent, The Hindu

1:35 pm - 2:10 pm
Lunch

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Whither Social Justice?
Telangana's Bold Governance Experiment

Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana

In conversation with
Ravikanth Reddy
Political Editor, Telangana, The Hindu

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm
Maharashtra Unbound:
Gateway to India's Trillion-Dollar Economy (online)*

Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra

In conversation with
Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, The Hindu

3:25 pm - 4:10 pm
No Boundaries:
Growth of Women's Cricket in India

Mithali Raj
Former Captain, India

Shantha Rangaswamy
Former and First Captain, India

Shreyanka Patil
Cricketer, India

Moderated by
K.C. Vijaya Kumar
Sports Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm
Climate Calling:
Is Technology the Panacea for a Warming Planet?

Suruchi Bhadwal
Director, Climate Change and Air Quality, TERI

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh
Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Dr. Sambuddha Misra
Chemical Oceanographer and Professor, IISc

Moderated by
Jacob Koshy
Deputy Science Editor, The Hindu

5:05 pm - 5:35 pm
From Quantum Valley to Education Hubs:
Leveraging Coalition Politics to Deliver Good Governance

N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

In conversation with
N. Ram
Director, The Hindu Group

5:40 pm - 6:10 pm
Stand-up Act

Anu Menon

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May 9 & 10

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PMLA RULING

SC seeks issues to consider for review

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CONCLAVE OPENS

Elect a Pope who seeks unity: senior cardinal

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SHADOW ON VICTORY DAY

Ukrainian drones strike Moscow airports

WORLD » PAGE 18

THE TWO-NATION THEORY

Pakistan, Bangladesh and identity questions

What Pakistan is and what it seeks to remain

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12

END OF AN ERA

Skipper Rohit decides to retire from Tests

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Unions worried over proposed changes to Act

BENGALURU
The Congress government has proposed to bring changes to the Factories Act, 1948. The Joint Committee of Trade Unions has already taken objection, and is set to petition the government against the move. » PAGE 8

BBMP seeks undertaking from builders

BENGALURU
The BBMP has made it compulsory for builders and property owners to submit a legal undertaking stating that housing units will be transferred to buyers only after obtaining occupancy and completion certificates. » PAGE 6

Indian forces hit Pakistan terror bases

- 24 precision strikes carried out on bases across 9 sites used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK
- Air defence network on 'highest state' of alert in anticipation of counter-response from Pakistan
- Targets destroyed without harming any civilian population, as per plan, says Defence Minister

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a swift and decisive military action under Operation Sindoor against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Indian armed forces carried out 24 precision strikes on nine different targets within a span of just 25 minutes in the early hours of Wednesday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India exercised its "right to respond" to an attack on its soil, referring to the Pahalgam attack, and the armed forces "scripted history" by acting with "precision, precaution, and compassion" to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK.

The entire air defence network has been put on the highest state of alert in anticipation of any counter-response from Pakistan.

"India has demonstrated considerable restraint in its response. However, Indian armed forces are fully prepared to respond to Pakistani misadventure, if any, to escalate the situation," Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said at a media briefing during the day, which was led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

'Non-escalatory action'

Mr. Misri said India exercised its right to act on terror targets, stressing that the actions were "measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible".

"The action was carried out very thoughtfully and in a measured manner. It was limited only to the camps and other infrastructure used for training terrorists, with the aim of breaking their morale," the Defence Minister said while addressing the 66th Raising Day event of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

He asserted that as per plan, the targets were destroyed and no civilian population was harmed.

"No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution," the Ministry said.

"We are living up to the commitment that those responsible for the Pahalgam attack will be held accountable," it added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Army spokesperson Lt. General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry claimed that 31 people were killed and 57 injured in the strikes.

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» PAGES 11,14,15 & 16

Strategic targets

Armed forces carry out 24 precision strikes on targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under **Operation Sindoor**

> The Indian armed forces scripted history last night... Through Operation Sindoor India used its 'right to respond' to attack on its soil
>
> **RAJNATH SINGH,** Defence Minister

Targeted sites in Pakistan belong to terror groups across the border at distances ranging from 6 km to 100 km

Swift action: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri at a press briefing on the military strikes on terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Precision capability' strikes conducted between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday

5 sites hit in PoK and 4 across the International Border

Action limited only to the camps and infrastructure used for training terrorists, with the aim of breaking their morale, says Defence Minister

12 J&K civilians, one soldier killed in Pak. shelling

SRINAGAR/JAMMU
One soldier and at least 12 civilians, three women and three children among them, were killed and 51 injured as the Pakistan Army resorted to heavy mortar shelling and firing in four districts close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Indian Army said it was responding in a "proportionate manner". » PAGE 15

Training exercise

South Central Railway's Civil Defence Organisation conducting a comprehensive civil defence drill on the premises of Raichur Railway Station on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Siddaramaiah hails strikes on terror bases; says there was no other option for India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hailed the precision strikes targeting terrorist bases not only in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), but also deep inside Pakistani territory.

State on alert

The Chief Minister called off his scheduled visit to Raichur, to participate in a protest organised by the Congress, in the light of the national security drill. He said the Government of Karnataka was closely coordinating with the Centre, and had ramped up security. "We are vigilant, and citizens should remain calm," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah expressed his government's full support to the Centre's decision on strikes against terror bases and stressed on the need for national unity. "This is not the time for politics, but for standing together as Indians."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah described the operation as a decisive blow to cross-border terrorism and promised full support from the Government of Karnataka to the Centre. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He hailed the operation as a "decisive blow to cross-border terrorism" and promised full support from the Government of Karnataka for the Central government's actions. "Our soldiers have shown extraordinary courage by hitting terror hubs inside enemy territory," he told mediapersons in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

"Pakistan's continued support to militants left us with no choice. These strikes send a clear message - India will retaliate fiercely," he asserted.

He hailed the armed forces for their precision attacks that destroyed terror bases, but avoided any harm to civilians.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who had earlier drawn criticism for his remarks that there was no need for war and later clarified that he had meant that war should not be the first and only option, maintained that there was no other choice for India except to strike terror bases.

'Justified and necessary'

Mr. Siddaramaiah condemned Pakistan's involvement in the terror attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir in which 26 innocent persons were killed. "The world knows Pakistan shelters terrorists. India's strikes were justified and necessary," he said.

The CM emphasised that the strikes were a stern warning not just to Pakistan, but to any country backing terrorism against India.

Karnataka to soon start 36 day care chemotherapy centres across districts

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Follow-up chemotherapy is soon going to be more accessible and affordable for cancer patients in Karnataka.

The State Health Department is all set to launch 36 day care chemotherapy centres spread across districts this month.

So far, cancer patients in the State had to visit either the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi or private hospitals for chemotherapy.

Depending on the number of chemotherapy sessions prescribed, patients had to either get admitted or travel back and forth for the follow-up therapy from their respective hometowns owing to the long waiting period.

Now, with the day care centres, patients can get follow-up chemotherapy sessions for solid tumours such as oral, breast, cervical, lung cancer and colon cancer at the nearest district hospital.

The first cycle of the therapy will be given at the tertiary care centre under the supervision of a medical oncologist, according to Srinivas G., State Deputy Director (Non-Communicable Diseases).

Hub-and-spoke model

Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), who is also the Administrator of Kidwai, said the day care centres would be set up on a hub-and-spoke model in 16 district and 20 medical college hospitals. Tertiary care empanelled hospitals that would be the hubs would be tied up with the district and medical college hospitals where the day care centres would be set up, he said.

Pointing out that Kidwai was one of the hub centres, the official said the daycare facilities would reduce travel time and waiting period for patients to get the essential cancer treatment.

The day care centres would be run by physicians and anaesthetists, who would be trained by medical oncologists to administer the therapy.

However, chemotherapy would not be provided for paediatric cancer patients with leukemia and other blood cancers at the day care centres as that needed to be done under the supervision of medical oncologists, Dr. Srinivas said.

The proposal on day care chemotherapy centres, which was announced in last year's State Budget, is now being implemented. In this year's Budget, the Centre had also announced the establishment of 200 cancer day care centres at government hospitals over the next three years.

Chemotherapy is a treatment where drugs are used to stop the growth of the cancerous cells either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing. It is given by mouth, injection, or infusion, or on the skin, depending on the type and stage of the cancer being treated.

Cancer burden in India

Based on the Population Based Cancer Registry (PCBR) data, approximately 14 lakh new cancer cases are reported annually in India. Of these, an estimated 87,850 new cases are from Karnataka. About 2.37 lakh cancer cases (including those on treatment and newly diagnosed) can be noticed at any given point of time in the State.

'Private engineering colleges charging exorbitant fees for BBA and BCA courses'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Despite Visvesvaraya Technological University guidelines capping the fees for Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelors in Computer Applications (BCA) offered in engineering colleges, parents and students have alleged that many colleges have been charging several times beyond the prescribed fee cap.

While VTU has capped the fees for these courses at private engineering colleges at ₹50,000, several private engineering colleges are charging as high as ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh for these courses. Many have pointed out that this is much higher than fees fixed for government quota engineering seats in private colleges, fixed at ₹1.7 lakh for 2024-25. Earlier, engineering colleges were not allowed to offer BBA and BCA courses. But the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) permitted engineering colleges with good infrastructure including buildings, teaching staff and other resources to offer these courses from 2024-25. Since admissions to these courses are not done through the Common Entrance Test (CET), many colleges are taking students through college-level exams.

A file photo of VTU campus in Belagavi. Parents say the fee demand is outrageous and if questions are asked, college managements ask them to look for seats elsewhere.

Following complaints of the unregulated fee structure for these courses at private engineering colleges, VTU, to which all engineering colleges in the State are affiliated, issued two orders over the past week capping the fee for these courses.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

Sinner returns, tennis reels, and a new era stumbles into focus

The Italian is back competing after a three-month doping-related ban. As the post-Rafael Nadal era begins on clay and there are signs of a significant churn in men's tennis, can Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz re-establish their duopoly?

Eye on the goal: World No. 1 Sinner will hope that just like his ranking which didn't suffer despite a lay-off, his tennis returns too. GETTY IMAGES

N. Sudarshan

In mid-February, when Jannik Sinner accepted a three-month ban from tennis after entering into a case-resolution agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for two positive tests in March 2024 for the banned anabolic steroid clostebol, many in the tennis world thought that the Italian had gotten away lightly.

After the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) decided in August 2024 that Sinner bore "no fault or negligence" and let him off, WADA appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) seeking a one-to-two year ban. WADA agreed that Sinner did not intentionally dope, but it believed that there had to be consequences for the presence of a banned substance in an athlete's body.

From that position, to then settle for a three-month sentence, wherein the then World No. 1 would not even miss a single Grand Slam tournament, rankled many. Tennis was replete with players having their cases drag on for months before being handed multi-year bans. In such a scenario, Sinner was seen as being treated with kid gloves.

This weekend, Sinner is set to return to action at the Italian Open ATP Masters 1000 in Rome, the last big tune-up before the season's second Slam French Open. If the 23-year-old was perceived to have had an easy ride with the authorities in the aftermath of his doping violations, his peers have ensured that he will have the softest of landings.

Sinner, whose only tournament this year was the Australian Open which he won, is still the World No. 1 despite a full three-month period where he was not even permitted to watch competitive tennis as an in-stadia spectator let alone pick up the racquet. And quite miraculously, he is set to be the top-seed at Roland-Garros, which begins on May 25. When the expulsion kicked in, Sinner's lead over No. 2 Alexander Zverev was 3695 points. In spite of missing four Masters 1000s and a couple of ATP 500s, Sinner is still ahead by 1645 points. Zverev, despite playing eight tournaments in the time Sinner was absent, didn't win more than two matches at all but one event – Munich 500, where he lifted the trophy.

The gap between Sinner and Zverev did reduce by 2050 points, but that was largely because of the 500 he chose not to defend in Rotterdam in early February and the 1000 he could not in Miami in March.

"It's a very strange feeling again, to be around with so many people and attention, but it's nice to be back," Sinner said at the *Foro Italico* earlier this week in his first official press conference on return.

"The new generation is coming stronger and stronger. For me, what's most important is the Race to Turin (ATP Finals), which gives you a bigger picture of how players play in that moment. I'm happy with the position I'm in, but I would be [equally happy] to be No. 3 or No. 4, to be honest."

The fact that he is not No. 3 or No. 4 but numero uno is an adequate enough reflection of the current state of men's tennis. The 2025 clay-court swing is the first after 14-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal retired, and with the Spaniard's giant shadow no longer hovering menacingly over the red dirt, the field feels chaotic and open.

Novak Djokovic, 37, and the last of the Big Three (Nadal and Roger Federer being the others) still active, hasn't won a Tour-level title since November 2023 and lost his opening matches at both the Monte Carlo and Madrid Masters recently.

World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz, the defending champion at Roland-Garros and Wimbledon, won in Monte Carlo and reached the final in Barcelona before skipping Madrid with an adductor injury. Stefanos Tsitsipas, a capable clay-courter, has not gone past the last-eight stage at three straight tournaments in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid.

This has meant that there have been breakthrough performances for the likes of Jack Draper, who won Indian Wells, finished runner-up at Madrid and is now up to a career-high No. 5, and 19-year-old Czech Jakub Mensik, who beat 24-time Slam winner Djokovic in the Miami final.

Three-time Major and two-time French Open finalist Casper Ruud is back in the top-10 (No. 7) after claiming Madrid, his maiden Masters 1000 triumph, while Lorenzo Musetti, a tricky and talented Italian, has breached the top-10 for the first time in his career (No. 9).

"Anybody can clip anybody on a given day," Frances Tiafoe, the American World No. 16, told reporters in Madrid. "I think these are exciting times. Tennis reminds me right now of 2000 to 2004 or 2005. Anybody can win Slams; anybody can win tournaments like this [Madrid]. Every Masters, we'll probably have eight, nine [possible] winners."

While this may be true at the Masters 1000, ATP 500 and ATP 250 levels - the last 15 Masters competitions have seen 11 different winners - the Grand Slams remain the preserve of the best. Ever since the vice-like grip of the Big Three loosened, Sinner and Alcaraz have ensured a wrinkle-free transition. The two, in fact, split the four Major titles equally in 2024, and Sinner even defended his crown in Melbourne earlier this year.

With Alcaraz inching back towards top form and Sinner back in the mix, it remains to be seen if men's tennis retains its recently acquired volatility. Much depends on what shape Sinner is in. Physically, the lengthy rest period would have helped him, but a certain amount of rustiness cannot be ruled out after three months of no competitive play.

"The body still has to adjust," Sinner said. "The blisters on the hands, they'll come again when you're not used to [playing] anymore. But it's all good. I'm just very happy and very curious to see where I'm at."

Interestingly, just one of Sinner's 19 Tour titles have come on clay (UMAG 2022), and he now has just the Rome Masters and one of Hamburg 500 or Geneva 250 to build his way up for the war of attrition clay-court tennis often is. But it was on the Parisian red dirt in 2020 that he made his first Slam quarterfinal, where he matched the legendary Nadal shot for shot for one set before losing 6-7(4), 4-6, 1-6.

What should give Sinner confidence is that, despite the lay-off, there is a certain aura that he has built up which makes him the favourite against practically everyone he competes against. Until his ban kicked in, he was the standout player on the men's Tour, having won 14 of his previous 26 tournaments and finished semifinalist or better in five others.

That a large part of this streak was conjured even as his doping saga was running parallelly spoke volumes about Sinner's resilience and toughness. He won the 2024 US Open just after ITIA made public his twin positive tests and he secured the Shanghai Masters, ATP Tour Finals, Davis Cup and the 2025 Australian Open after WADA announced that it will appeal his case at the CAS. He also handled deftly the ill will and frostiness that the whole episode gave rise to among fellow players and fans.

"Look, last year was very difficult," Sinner said. "I had a lot of personal pressure, holding everything. I couldn't talk with many people about what happened. I was in a tough situation at the beginning of the Australian Open.

"I struggled a lot, so it was nice to take a small break. Three months...but it is what it is. A small break was good. I could feel that I'm not playing for quite a long time. What's missing for me is the complete feedback of where my level is. That's going to come slowly with more playing time."

THE GIST

- In the three months Sinner was excised from the Tour, no player — Zverev and Alcaraz included — staked claim to the Italian's throne at the top
- Sinner and Alcaraz may have established a firm hold at the Grand Slam level, but there is a lot of unpredictability in the lower rungs
- With Nadal out of the picture, clay is ready for a new king. While Alcaraz has proved his mettle on the dirt, Sinner is a work in progress
- But Sinner's resilience and mental fortitude in dealing with the positive tests and the ban holds out hope that Paris is not a bridge too far

The Biggest Stage for India's Boldest Conversations

THE HINDU GROUP

Schedule, May 10

10:00 am - 10:45 am
More Than a Sum of Parts:
Reimagining India's Federalism

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
Hon'ble Minister, Information Technology and Digital Services, Tamil Nadu

P. Rajeeve
Hon'ble Minister, Law, Industries, and Coir, Kerala

Moderated by
Narayan Lakshman
Curator, The Hindu Huddle, and Opinion Editor, The Hindu

10:50 am - 11:35 am
Vox Populi: Language and Identity Wars Shaping Our Culture

A.R. Venkatachalapathy
Historian, Author and Professor Madras Institute of Development Studies Tamil Nadu

Laximikant Deshmukh
Chairperson, Language Consultation Committee, Maharashtra

Moderated by
Varghese K. George
Resident Editor, The Hindu

11:40 am - 12:30 pm
Beyond Love and Hate:
Kabir's Message of Non-Duality

Talk + Performance by
Vipul Rikhi

12:35 pm - 1:05 pm
Let's Get Gritty: Indigenous Cinema in a Mainstream Environment

Vetri Maaran
Director, Producer, Screenwriter

In conversation with
Baradwaj Rangan
Film Critic

1:10 pm - 2:15 pm
Lunch

2:20 pm - 3:05 pm
In the Hood: The New Forces Shaping Subcontinental Geopolitics

Ranil Wickremesinghe
Former President, Sri Lanka

T.S. Tirumurti
Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York

Moderated by
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

3:10 pm - 3:40 pm
North and South:
Big Divide to Growing Chasm in Indian Cinema

Anurag Kashyap
Director, Producer, Actor

In conversation with
Baradwaj Rangan
Film Critic

3:45 pm - 4:30 pm
Let's Talk Work: Future of the Workplace

K. Ganesh
Serial Entrepreneur and Partner, GrowthStory

Hemant Malik
Wholetime Director, Divisional Chief Executive - Foods, ITC

Jayen Mehta
Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

Suparna Mitra
Chief Executive Officer, Watches and Wearables Division, Titan

Moderated by
L.V. Navaneeth
CEO, The Hindu Group

4:35 pm - 5:20 pm
Non-Communicable Diseases:
Trojan Horse of India's Health

Dr. Anoop Misra
Chairman, Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya
Health and Social Sector Policy Adviser

Dr. Preetha Reddy
Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals

Moderated by
Ramya Kannan
Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu

5:25 pm - 6:10 pm
AI for All: Dream of a Democratised and Ethical Technology

Astha Kapoor
Co-founder, Aapti Institute

Kalika Bali
Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, India

Tanvi Lall
Strategy, People+AI

Moderated by
Manu Joseph
Author, Columnist, and Screenwriter

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Civil defence drill held in city, Raichur

Various stakeholders conduct the exercise, Operation Abhyaas, in response to the Ministry of Home Affairs directive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In response to the Ministry of Home Affairs directive to conduct drills, various stakeholders on Wednesday conducted the civil defence exercise, Operation Abhyaas, at the Civil Defence headquarters at Ulsoor here.

Multi-disciplinary teams comprising Civil Defence, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services, National Disaster Response Force, medical teams, Home Guards, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Central Reserve Police Force, Intelligence Bureau and the Bengaluru city traffic and law and order police took part in the drill which began at 4 p.m.

Among the exercises conducted at the drill were water rescue operations at Ulsoor lake by a civil defence team, high-rise building fire rescue using Fire Services vehicles, water tenders, rope suspension, and stretcher methods.

Besides, building evacuation drills for trapped individuals, coordination between Civil Defence, SDRF, Fire Services, and Home Guards for search and rescue operations were also part of the drill.

Enhancing preparedness: Multi-disciplinary teams participating in Operation Abhyaas at Ulsoor in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Children closing their ears when the air-raid siren went off during the civil defence drill in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who witnessed the drill, said a similar situation arose in 1972.

"We can recall the incidents that took place in the country then. We have come across a similar situation now. The recent incident in Kashmir has hurt every Indian. Twenty-six people were attacked indiscriminately. It hurts when innocent people and children are killed," he said.

He said that due to the prevailing situation between India and Pakistan there is a need to prepare for a drill like this.

Blackout drill

Following the drill, a blackout drill was held at 7 p.m. Participants were instructed about the measures to take in case of a blackout. They were instructed to switch off all lights, close curtains, and evacuate within seven minutes.

Personal emergency kits, which include two sets of clothes, torchlight, dry fruits, and emergency phone numbers, was also mentioned as an essential during blackouts.

NCC cadets who had come to observe the drill said it was a helpful experience for them. "We have learnt how we should respond to emergencies, and we will be able to safeguard our families or students when the need arises," said Prithvik and Vandana, from Surana College, Peenya.

Earlier in the day, out of the 35 air-raid sirens, mostly installed at prominent fire stations and police stations in Bengaluru, 32 were activated.

South Central Railway (SCR) conducted a comprehensive civil defence drill at the Raichur Railway Station. A dedicated team of 32 members from the Civil Defence Organisation of the SCR, along with supporting staff from the local railway station, actively participated in the 45-minute exercise, which commenced at 4 p.m.

The drill was designed to assess the readiness of personnel in responding swiftly and effectively to crisis situations.

Operation Sindoor: 29 flights to and from KIA cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Due to the airspace closure in north India in the wake of military operation Operation Sindoor, 29 flights were cancelled to and from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday. The airport had issued a passenger advisory on the disruption of flight service due to the airspace restriction.

Advisory

"Due to prevailing airspace restrictions, some flights have been cancelled on May 7, 2025. We request passengers to verify their status with their respective airlines before heading to the airport. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time," stated the advisory.

Airport officials said that 15 arrivals and 14 departures were cancelled due to the airspace restrictions.

Among the flights affected were 10 inbound Indigo flights and nine departures. Four Air India and three Air India Express flights were also cancelled.

As per Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) information issued at 3.30 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, 25 airports are closed till 11.50 p.m. (UTC) on May 9. Chandigarh, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jammu, and Leh are among the airports.

Loitering munition used to strike terror bases developed in city

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The loitering munitions used by the Indian armed forces to strike at terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday were manufactured in Bengaluru. These loitering munitions are said to have had a huge impact in destroying the targets.

Joint venture

These loitering munitions, which are also known as suicide or kamikaze drones, are developed by a Bengaluru-based private company which has a joint venture with an Israel-based military technology company.

The loitering munition is a fully autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System (UAS) that can locate, acquire, and strike operator-designated targets with a warhead installed inside the fuselage, enabling high-precision performance.

Pact signed

A few years ago at Aero India, the two companies signed an agreement to establish a working relationship and to cooperate phased production of the UAS in India.

The Israeli company provided transfer of technology through a follow-up agreement. Later that year, the Indian Army signed a contract with the Bengaluru-based company for procuring more than 100 of these drones.

This was the first time the Indian armed forces used this technology in large numbers in a military operation to target terrorist camps across the border.

Congress posts Mahatma Gandhi's quote highlighting peace, deletes it later

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State unit of the Congress on Wednesday posted a Mahatma Gandhi's quote emphasising peace on its social media handle and deleted it later. "The most powerful weapon of mankind is peace – Mahatma Gandhi", the Congress posted on X. It came a few hours after India carried out air strikes inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of its 'Operation Sindoor'.

Lauds IAF

Later, the party lauded the Indian Air Force in another post. "The Indian Air Force (IAF), widely recognised as one of the world's strongest air forces, gave a befitting reply to the cowardly #PahalgamTerroristAttack. We stand with the government, we stand with our security forces. #OperationSindoor," the Congress said.

The BJP, meanwhile, termed the tweet an "an insult to the nation".

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok urged AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to initiate action against Karnataka Congress leaders.

"Which side is the peace-chanting Congress in Karnataka standing at the time of strikes against terror bases?" he asked.

Manjunath Rao's mother praises PM

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Sumathi, the mother of Manjunath Rao, who died in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, has reacted to Operation Sindoor.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, Sumathi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken the right decision. "We stand with the decision of our PM. If India is considered a family, the PM is head of the family. He has taken the right decision," she said. Manjunath Rao, a realtor in Shivamogga, died in the terror attack at Pahalgam on April 22. He is survived by his wife, son and mother.

Special prayers in honour of Indian Army

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Muzrai and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has directed the Endowment Department Commissioner to organise special prayers in all temples under the Muzrai Department in honour of Indian Army. The directive comes in the wake of India's military action Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"Conveying best wishes to our proud Indian Army for this operation. It is hereby directed that special prayers be conducted in all the Muzrai temples in the name of the Indian Army, praying to the deity to bless the army with even greater strength," Mr. Reddy said in his order.

THiS school students shine in SSLC exam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State board students from schools that are a part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme achieved excellent results in the SSLC examination.

Amara Jyothi English High School, Devasandra, K.R. Puram, got 52 distinctions, with Dhruthi S. topping the batch with 98.8%.

Sharat Chandra S. and Ratish R., with 99.04% are the toppers of Mahila Seva Samaja High School, K.R. Road, which got 19 distinctions.

Indiranagar High School, Indiranagar, got 26 distinctions and Deepthi K.R. is the school topper with 96.96%. Jubliee School, Vijinapura, secured 16 distinctions and N. Nithya Shree secured 99.04% and became the top scorer.

Anwesha Pradhan with 98.88% is the topper of South East Asian High School, K.R. Puram. The school secured 23 distinctions. Holy Spirit School and PU College, Bannerghatta Road, secured 14 distinctions and Meghana P. is the topper with 95.68%.

Jnana Deepthi English High School, Girinagar, secured 25 distinctions and Sinchana Manja S. is the topper with 97.28%. In SSB International School, Indiranagar, nine students secured distinctions and Reena Shiny with 99%, topped the school.

St. John's School, Papareddypalya, secured five distinctions, and Dhanush A.S. scored the highest with 98.24%. A total of 18 students from Pragathi Vidyanikethana, Harohalli, Ramanagara, secured distinctions and Rachana G. secured 99.04% to become the topper.

Hitha Hemanth Kumar, with 98.72%, is the topper of Little Flower Public School, Hosakerehalli. Lewa English High School, situated on west of Chord Road, got six distinctions and Jayashree R. is the topper with 95%.

A total of 127 students from Cluny Convent High School, Jalahalli, secured distinctions. With 99.68%, Priya Naidu K. is the topper. SBIOA Public School, Basaveshwaranagar, secured 17 distinctions and its topper Keerthana. P. secured 98.08%.

With 98.08% marks, P. Gayathri topped St. Martin's High School, Magadi Road, which secured 18 distinctions. There are 11 distinction holders from Ganga International School, Nelagadaranahalli, Nagasandra Post. Lekhashree A., who scored 96.16%, is the topper.

V.I.P. High School from Adugodi secured 58 distinctions, and Dhanush K. is the top scorer with 99.52%. St. Claret High School, Jalahalli, got 100 distinctions and Aditi D. Kundapur scored 99.36% to become the topper of her class.

Manoj R.S. who secured 98.4% is the topper of Nava Deep English High School, Gayathri Layout, K.R. Puram, which got five distinctions.

ICSE and ISC students

The ICSE and ISC students from schools under the THiS programme also secured impressive results in this year's class 10 and class 12 examinations.

Pratham International School, Valepura, Kotur, secured 24 distinctions in class 10 and Sanjay Gowda is the topper with 96.2%.

From The Oxford English School, J.P. Nagar, Rayeesha Fathima A., is the topper in the Science stream in class 10 with 96.4%. The Commerce stream topper for class 10 is Deepika N. with 96%. From class 12, Mithlesh Kumar Gupta, who scored 76.25%, is the Science topper and Mohammed Taqi Ahmed, who scored 73.25%, is the Commerce stream topper.

V.L.S. International School, Sharada Colony, Basaveshwarnagar, secured 68 distinctions for class 10, and Akash S. with 97.4% is the topper of the class. Forty-eight class 10 students from Daffodils English School, Sanjaynagar, secured distinctions, and Aadhya Uday secured 98.4% and claimed the top spot.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

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A first-of-its-kind an all-inclusive offer of unmatched value for a grand celebration of love. Never done before, never seen before - with Magnificent Weddings, you can have it all. Here's an all-inclusive* wedding package that wins you the best of both worlds - glam up in high-end bridal jewellery pieces that drip in sophistication, style and tradition - and indulge in the quintessential big fat Indian wedding at Palace Grounds. Includes jewellery, venue, décor, catering, music, photographer, videographer, a 90 dish food menu, music, mocktail bar, and more - a total of 16 luxury offerings. 100 + Couples have already registered. Mr.Chaitanya V Cotha, the Executive Director of C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers, and the mastermind behind the Magnificent Wedding Offer that's got everyone talking. Being at the forefront of the wedding jewellery industry, Chaitanya understands this shift better than anyone. With CKC's unmatched legacy in wedding jewellery, he saw an opportunity to do more–not just adorn weddings, but disrupt how they're planned. Enter the Magnificent Wedding Offer, a bold new initiative that gives couples the best of both worlds: premium wedding jewellery and an all-inclusive luxury wedding experience at a fraction of the usual cost.

Bank of Baroda announces Financial Results for the Quarter & Financial Year ended 31st March 2025

Strong and Steady: Bank maintains strong Asset Quality in FY25 performance with 10.1% YoY growth in Net Profit. Bank's Global Business has crossed a milestone of INR 27 lakh crore as of 31st March 2025.

Mysore based Jireh Cardiodigi Solutions launches Hrudal Mobile App

The unique and innovative Hrudal Mobile App, introduced by healthcare solutions firm Jireh Cardiodigi in Bengaluru today, is looking to improve health outcomes in India by reducing morbidity and mortality through better emergency access, diagnostics and preventive care. "With both an online and offline presence, we are dedicated to ensuring that healthcare resources are used effectively and are accessible to everyone, everywhere. Our mission is to significantly reduce the cost of diagnosis through technology and innovation," said Dr David J Chelli, MD & CEO of Jireh Cardiodigi Solutions Pvt Ltd, while launching the app.

Arjunaa Jewellers Unveils 'Sambhava' Jewellery Purchase Plan

Arjunaa Jewellers, Bengaluru, proudly launches Sambhava – where your intent to invest becomes a legacy of beauty. With just 11 easy monthly contributions, Arjunaa gifts you the 12th, doubling your redeemable gold weight at average rates. Whether it's a timeless gold, classic silver or a stunning diamonds, your aspirations are now closer than ever. Transparent, rewarding, and deeply meaningful, Sambhava isn't just a savings plan – it's an invitation to create family treasures. For more information, visit Arjunaa Jewellers, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, or explore online at www.arjunaa.in.

M G Balasubrahmanya Takes Charge as Director (HR), HAL

Mr. M.G. Balasubrahmanya took charge as Director (Human Resources) at HAL. Prior to this appointment, he held the position of Executive Director (Human Resources) at HAL Corporate Office. Mr. Balasubrahmanya holds a Master's degree in Social Work (Personnel Management and Industrial Relations) from the School of Social Work, Mangalore University. He holds a Law degree from Osmania University. He is also a certified Internal Assessor for the Competency Assessment. During his career spanning over 35 years in HAL, he has made significant contributions to the entire spectrum of Human Resources including Industrial Relations, Legal & Disciplinary matters, Training & Skill Development, Corporate Social Responsibility, Facility & Estate Management and Vigilance - at Divisional, Complex and Corporate level. As Executive Director (HR), Mr. Balasubrahmanya prioritized attracting and retaining top talent while fostering a culture of continuous learning, process improvement, automation, employee engagement and productivity enhancement. He also played a key role in developing and aligning HR policies and interventions with HAL's business needs and challenges.

Climate change is disrupting the human gut in a new path to illness

Research has already found that high atmospheric carbon dioxide levels can diminish the quantity of plant micronutrients like phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and iron, along with protein concentrations in vital crops; these effects add to the complexities that affect the gut microbiota

Sharmila Vaidyanathan

Climate-driven food shortage and undernourishment could affect the composition of the human gut microbiota, exacerbating the effects of climate change on human health, according to a new review article published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

The article comes on the heels of a growing number of studies that highlight the key role food and nutrition play in maintaining a healthy microbial population in the human gut, leading to better metabolic and intestinal health.

This painting shows a cross-section through an *Escherichia coli* cell. *E. coli* is an anaerobic bacterium commonly found in the lower intestine of humans.
DAVID S. GOODSELL, RCSB PROTEIN DATA BANK (CC BY)

Diversity disrupted

According to the review, climate-induced changes in the yield and nutritional quality of plants, seafood, meat, and dairy could disrupt this microbial diversity, tipping the balance towards microbial strains associated with malnutrition and particular diseases.

The review also warns that these effects will be more pronounced in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) since these regions face the brunt of climate stressors, including higher temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide, which affect their agricultural output and increase render deficiencies in these areas more common.

Indigenous communities that depend more than other demographic groups on local food sources and that have been shown to have greater gut microbial diversity may also be more susceptible to climate-related changes, the review reads.

Research has already found that high atmospheric carbon dioxide levels can diminish the quantity of plant micronutrients like phosphorus, potassium, zinc, and iron, along with protein concentrations in vital crops such as wheat, maize, and rice. These effects add to the complexities that affect the gut microbiota.While the effects of food and nutrition are direct, the review also examined the role of changes in water, soil, and other environmental microbiota as a result of climate change.

A fine balance

In another recent review, published in *Dialogues in Health*, researchers from the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, analysed the impact of heat on human and animal health in India. They found that reports of foodborne and waterborne infectious diseases and malnutrition increase with heat.

Although these findings mirror common knowledge about food and water-related illnesses in warmer weather, the resulting implications for gut dysbiosis – the imbalance in gut microbial populations – also need to be considered for future heat-related mitigation efforts, *The Lancet* review said.

"While we know and research various effects of climate change on human health, one aspect remains understudied – the effects of changing climate on the microbial communities in the human gut," Elena Litchman, author of the review in *The Lancet* and the MSU Foundation professor of aquatic ecology at Michigan State University, said. "This, in part, could be explained by the fact that researchers studying human microbiota do not necessarily think about it in a climate change context."

The human gut is home to about 100 trillion bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses. Bacteria are this group's predominant members. The microbes' overall diversity in the gut influences several aspects of human well-being, including immunity, maintaining glucose levels, and metabolism.

According to a 2018 analysis in *The BMJ*, lower bacterial diversity has been observed in atopic eczema, types I and II diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease, among other conditions. Researchers are also exploring how gut dysbiosis changes the central nervous system and leads to neurological disorders.

More research attention

The gut microbiome – the collective genome of the microbes in the gut – has far more genes than the human genome, producing thousands of metabolites that affect the individual's health and development.

"Our understanding of the gut microbiota's role in human health is still evolving. While climate change is a growing concern in this context, establishing cause and effect is difficult as there are many confounding factors," Sachit Anand, a paediatric urologist and assistant professor at AIIMS, New Delhi, said. In his research, Mr. Anand examines the role of gut microbiota in congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract.

He added that understanding the interactions between the microbiota, the host, and the environment is now gaining more research attention, especially when evaluating an individual's susceptibility to specific diseases. As climate change becomes a key influencing factor in this 'triad,' its impact cannot be ignored moving forward, he said.

It may be tempting to examine these interdependencies in a linear manner: i.e., that climate-induced changes in crops affect the diet and thus the gut microbiota, or that climate-induced increases in temperatures make enteric infections more prevalent, ultimately disrupting the gut's microbial population. But both Ms. Litchman and Tarini Shankar Ghosh, assistant professor at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi, warned that many of these stressors are often playing out simultaneously.

> What we need right now is to generate more data to understand how the so-called good bacteria interact with each other and benefit the host. Data generation must go hand-in-hand with connecting this information to climate change, so we know what is happening

As a computational biologist, Mr. Ghosh is interested in patterns in data about the human gut microbiome.

"If you take the example of low-income groups residing in urban environments, you are looking at the impacts of temperature, pollution, lack of quality food, and water supply," he explained. "There are multiple factors that are disrupting the gut microbiota at the same time."

A new science

Mr. Ghosh also said dysbiosis has been found to be a diagnostic signature in many disease states. According to him, this means it is not just the tipping of the balance towards unfavourable microbial populations that is concerning: dysbiosis also signals a loss of interdependence between "normal" microbial strains, leading to a loss of several metabolic functions in the host.

"What we need right now is to generate more data to understand how the so-called good bacteria interact with each other and benefit the host. Data generation must go hand-in-hand with connecting this information to climate change, so we know what is happening," Ghosh said.

Thus, Ms. Litchman said, a multidisciplinary approach with researchers from disparate fields coming together is vital to understand the effects of climate change on human gut microbiota. But along with a lack of awareness of climate change's effects, a paucity of funding programmes to enable such interdisciplinary and international research is a major impediment to future research of this nature, she added.

On the flip side, with advances in computational biology and metagenomics – analyses of the genetic makeup of microorganisms in a given environment – researchers are inching closer to unearthing some of the gut microbiota's secrets. For example at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, professor Vineet Kumar Sharma has developed an open-access database named GutBugBD. It provides information about how the gut microbiome can interact with and alter specific nutraceuticals and drugs, paving the way for therapeutic approaches to modulate gut microbiota in response to various changes.

This is just the start, according to Mr. Sharma: "At the moment, we are merely doing broader surveys of the gut microbiota to understand what is there and how they are functioning. Even if we introduce healthy microbiota through, say, probiotics, we cannot know if the response will be the same between two individuals. Each person's gut microbiota is unique, and understanding this uniqueness is important for the way forward."

(Sharmila Vaidyanathan is an independent writer from Bengaluru. sharmila.vaidyanathan@gmail.com)

A group of Haenyeo women on Jeju Island.
IDOBI (CC BY-SA)

Korea's Haenyeo divers show unique genetic adaptations

The Hindu Bureau

A new study has presented evidence of both genetic adaptation and physiological changes among the Haenyeo, a unique group of women in South Korea's Jeju Island known for diving up to 10 m underwater and up to seven hours a day to collect shellfish.

"In a society where established traditions have historically shaped gender roles, the Jeju-Haenyeo culture has emerged as an exceptional phenomenon," the UNESCO said after including the community in its 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' list in 2016.

The genetic variant identified in the study may reduce pregnancy-associated hypertension risks, according to the researchers. The findings were published in the journal *Cell Reports*. The researchers explored whether long-term diving practice and natural selection have shaped distinct traits in this community, particularly with respect to bradycardia (the slowing of heart rate), blood pressure regulation, and genetic variants associated with cold tolerance and pregnancy-related cardiovascular stress.

The researchers studied 91 women divided into three groups: 30 Haenyeo divers from Jeju, 30 non-diving Jeju "controls," and 31 non-diving Seoul "controls." The physiological data collected included spleen volume (using ultrasound), haematological parameters like hemoglobin and hematocrit levels, and cardiovascular responses during a simulated dive (immersing one's face in cold water while holding breath).

Haenyeo divers were found to be more bradycardic during simulated dives than both control groups, which the researchers said suggested a robust diving reflex likely due to training. This said, the

Researchers confirmed that Jeju Island residents are genetically distinct from mainland Koreans. They estimated the populations began to diverge around 5,000-7,000 years ago

individuals' spleen sizes were not significantly different between Haenyeo and non-Haenyeo Jeju women – even though both groups had larger spleens than the participants from Seoul. This, the researchers argued, reflected regional factors rather than genetic adaptation.

The Haenyeo and Jeju controls also had higher diastolic blood pressure than the Seoul participants across the baseline, dive, and recovery periods. The difference persisted even after the researchers adjusted for confounding variables, indicating a potential adaptive feature that enhanced the force that pumped blood to the brain during dives. The systolic pressure remained unchanged, however.

With whole-genome sequencing of 84 individuals from the cohort, the researchers confirmed that Jeju Island residents – both Haenyeo and non-Haenyeo – are genetically distinct from mainland Koreans. They estimated the populations began to diverge around 5,000-7,000 years ago. Finally, the team used the tools of population genetics to identify several gene variants strongly associated with diastolic blood pressure during diving. One in particular, called rs66930627, was significantly more common in Jeju residents and was linked to lower diastolic pressure, a trait they may have evolved to reduce the risk of hypertension during pregnancy.

They also found that this variant correlated with changes in the expression levels of other genes with known roles in immune modulation and hypertension. This association supported their hypothesis that natural selection among the Haenyeo may have targeted the rs66930627 variant to reduce the risk of preeclampsia in diving pregnant women.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The quintessential slippery slopes of nature

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
A cell that's trying to find its position within a growing tissue follows the X gradient. X is a substance that's distributed in an uneven way around the tissue, and gradients in concentration decide the cell's fare fate. Name X.

QUESTION 2
An important concept in the mathematical study of gradients is the _____ point, named for the shape of the surface on which it occurs. If you move left or right from this point, the surface slopes downward whereas moving ahead or behind will take you upward. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
A gradient catastrophe occurs when the rate of change of some property of a substance begins to increase rapidly. The classic example of such a catastrophe is a _____ ____, which is explained by a form of the Burgers' equation. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
The earth's surface water is warmer near the equator and cooler at the poles. Together with salinity and freshwater concentrations, this temperature gradient causes the _____ circulation, a global system of water currents. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
_____ _____ is a famous algorithm used to solve optimisation problems, including the act of training a neural network by minimising the value of its cost function. It was first proposed in 1847. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to May 1 quiz:
1. Terminal value of the number in Collatz conjecture – **Ans: 1**
2. Problem whose solution led to modern graph theory – **Ans: Seven Bridges of Königsberg**
3. Name of problem involving a reward in one of three closed boxes – **Ans: Monty Hall problem**
4. Number grid whose rows, columns have a common sum – **Ans: Magic square**
5. Number of queens for puzzle with 92 possible moves – **Ans: 8**
Visual: **Towers of Hanoi**
First contact: Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | K.N. Viswanathan | Ashutosh Gupta | Prem Kumar

Answers to May 2 quiz:
1. Influenza A virus (H1N1 subtype); **2.** Airborne droplets; **3.** False; **4.** Handwashing, respiratory hygiene, getting vaccinated; **5.** 2009; **6.** Neuraminidase; **7.** No; **8.** Seasonal flu vaccine; **9.** Yes
Visual: **Richard E. Shope**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Settem Anjaneyulu

Visual: In 2000, this man won an Ig Nobel Prize for causing a frog to levitate by applying a magnetic field with a strong gradient under it. Name him. Hint: he's the only person to have won both an Ig Nobel Prize and a Nobel Prize. CREDIT: BENGT OBERGER (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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M BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Facebook pages and accounts removed by Meta in March

23,000 Meta, in March, removed clusters of scam activity totalling over 23,000 Facebook pages and accounts that targeted people in Brazil and India. Explaining the modus operandi, Meta said the scammers used deepfakes. PTI

Indian YouTube news channels blocked by Pakistan

16 Pakistani authorities have blocked 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites because of the prevailing regional situation. This action "has been taken...to safeguard national security and protect Pakistan's digital ecosystem," the officials said. PTI

Amount India is expected to save on its import bill

1.8 In ₹ lakh crore. India, which meets over 85% of its crude oil needs through imports, spent $242.4 billion buying crude from overseas in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. With domestic production meeting roughly half of the demand, it also spent $15.2 billion on the import of LNG. PTI

People arrested in the fentanyl drug bust operation in the U.S.

16 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents seized 11.5 kilograms (25.3 pounds) of fentanyl, including three million pills, 35 kilograms of methamphetamine, 7.5 kilos of cocaine and 4.5 kilos of heroin in what U.S. officials said was one of the largest ever drug busts in the U.S. AFP

Number of political prisoners pardoned in Belarus

42 Belarus on Wednesday pardoned 42 of the more than 1,000 political prisoners in the country as part of an amnesty by President Alexander Lukashenko ahead of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, according to state media. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Pakistan's complex web of terror networks

Pakistan's terror infrastructure has survived for decades within its security establishment, which views these forces as strategic assets. Pakistan has been placed on and off the Financial Action Task Force 'grey list' since 2008 for failing to dismantle terror financing networks

FULL CONTEXT

Brijesh Singh

The Soviet-Afghan War of 1979 was the inflection point when Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), backed by U.S. funding, systematically cultivated jihadi infrastructure that evolved into today's sophisticated terror network. This deliberate cultivation created fighters with diverse objectives – Kashmir-focused aggression, control in Afghanistan, sectarian violence, and ideological warfare. Recent data has confirmed a resurgence of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism across the region. This analysis examines Pakistan's entrenched terror ecosystem through OSINT, declassified records, and academic research.

Terrorist outfits which are said to have Pakistan support

A key outfit is the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed – a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions. Its rigid command structure includes Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, and Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi who was one of the masterminds of the Mumbai attacks in 2008 (he was 'arrested' but protected within Pakistan's judicial system).

LeT's infrastructure centres around its 200-acre headquarters complex, the Markaz-e-Taiba, near Lahore, with additional bases strategically positioned across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and around urban centres including Lahore, Peshawar, and Karachi. Ideologically, the outfit adheres to the virulent Ahl-e-Hadith doctrine (a conservative faction with a strict adherence to the Koran) specifically targeting India, which it propagates through its network of 300+ madrassas across Pakistan. Intelligence confirms at least 16 documented training camps of the LeT across Pakistan and occupied territories. The group's operational sophistication is demonstrated through attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks where 166 people were killed; the 2006 Mumbai train bombings (209 killed); and an indirect hand in the 2010 German Bakery bombing in Pune (17 killed), orchestrated by the Indian Mujahideen (SIMI). LeT maintains transnational reach with recruitment networks identified in 21 countries, with dedicated cells both in Bangladesh and Nepal facilitating operations against India. Its financial architecture combines direct ISI funding, estimated to be around $25-50 million annually; gulf-based private donors from Saudi Arabia and the UAE; Pakistani diaspora contributions through Islamic charitable fronts; and business operations including commodity trading and real estate.

Then there is the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Established in 2000 by Masood Azhar following his 'release' during the IC-814 hijacking, the JeM represents Pakistan's suicide terrorism capability. Azhar maintains direct control over the outfit along with his brother, Abdul Rauf Asghar, by handling operations through specialised wings – the *Askari* (military) wing for direct operations; *Dawati* (missionary) wing for recruitment and radicalisation; and the intelligence wing for reconnaissance.

JeM's infrastructure centres around its fortified headquarters in Bahawalpur, Punjab, with satellite facilities. It also has seven major training camps in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, four in PoK, and has recently re-established camps in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The Balakot training complex, targeted by Indian airstrikes in 2019 but subsequently rebuilt, specialises in suicide attack training. Its ideology combines Deobandi fundamentalism (a movement within Sunni Islam) with an apocalyptic worldview glorifying martyrdom operations.

JeM's operational history includes the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *fidayeen* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities with respect to vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and military installation infiltration.

JeM's financing includes the Al-Rehmat Trust front charity, which collects $10-15 million annually; trading companies and commodity businesses; protection rackets in Bahawalpur and surrounding areas; documented ISI funding through intermediaries; and real estate holdings valued over $30 million.

Breaking point: A building that was hit by an Indian missile, near Bahawalpur, Pakistan on May 7. AP

Supporting players and state support

Some of the less mainstream players in Pakistan's terror network include the Haqqani Network which operates as a semi-autonomous ISI extension along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Led by Sirajuddin Haqqani – now Afghanistan's interior minister despite a $10 million U.S. bounty – the network serves as both an ISI proxy in Afghanistan and a facilitator for anti-India operations.

Then there is the Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K), which emerged from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) defectors, with operational bases in eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas. Though ideologically opposed to Pakistani objectives, evidence suggests elements within Pakistan's security establishment tacitly allow certain ISIS-K operations.

The Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM) also functions as a specialised recruitment pipeline for Pakistani proxy groups, maintaining extensive networks within Pakistan's religious seminary system, with over 60% of recruits channelled to LeT and JeM operations.

Therein, Pakistan's relationship with terrorist organisations transcends allegations – it is documented through concrete evidence, defector testimonies, international intelligence assessments, and financial tracking. The ISI has operationalised terrorism as state policy through a three-tiered system – strategic direction and funding through specialised "S-Wing" units; operational support via retired military personnel; and by providing material assistance such as weapons, training infrastructure, and intelligence. Despite officially joining the 'War on Terror' post the 9/11 tragedy in the U.S., Pakistan has maintained a calculated policy distinguishing between 'good terrorists' (serving Pakistani interests) and 'bad terrorists' (targeting Pakistani assets). The consequences have been devastating – over 45,000 lives lost due to Pakistani hand in terrorism since 1990.

Pakistan's persistent appearance on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) "grey list" (2008-2010, 2012-2015, 2018-2022) is international recognition of its systemic failure to dismantle terror financing networks. The most damning evidence comes from Pakistan itself – former President Pervez Musharraf openly admitted to training terrorists for Kashmir operations, while former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif confirmed state support for terrorist groups. Recently, the current Pakistani minister for foreign affairs said that they have been doing the "dirty work" for Western powers for a long time. A similar statement was also recently made by Bilawal Bhutto.

Funding and radicalisation

The funds sustaining this infrastructure operate through sophisticated mechanisms designed for plausible deniability. Religious charities serve as the primary collection points, with 40+ identified front organisations raising $150-200 million annually. Other sources include state funding through classified budget allocations (estimated $100-125 million annually); money laundering operations through *hawala* networks, with major hubs in Dubai, Karachi, and Peshawar; narcotics trafficking along the Afghanistan-Pakistan-India corridor generating an estimated $75 million annually; and cryptocurrency, with inputs indicating $15+ million moved through crypto channels in 2023.

Despite FATF pressure forcing some regulatory changes, Pakistan has preserved these financial pipelines by simply renaming organisations while maintaining core networks.

Apart from the financial infrastructure, Pakistan's terror network also relies on a sophisticated radicalisation apparatus. Pakistan has over 30,000 madrassas, with 10-15% of them directly linked to extremist organisations. Other modes through which terrorism is encouraged include curriculum in religious schools which often promote violent jihad, particularly against India; publications, websites, and social media channels disseminating extremist ideology; and a targeted recruitment of vulnerable youth from economically disadvantaged regions. This creates a self-sustaining radicalisation pipeline continuously replenishing terrorist ranks.

Evolution of the network

Pakistan's terror infrastructure demonstrates remarkable adaptability. It first made its appearance in the 1990s through direct insurgency in Kashmir through the LeT and HUM. Then by the early 2000s, the JeM had also emerged as a specialised suicide attack outfit.

However, post-9/11, operations of such terror groups became more sophisticated with greater plausible deniability; they started integrating cyber capabilities and information warfare. The Taliban's 2021 return to power in Afghanistan significantly emboldened this infrastructure. There has been a re-establishment of training facilities in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; an increase in infiltration attempts along the Line of Control (2023-2024); and enhanced operational coordination between LeT, JeM, and Taliban-affiliated groups.

Thus, Pakistan's terror infrastructure represents a deliberate, state-supported system that has survived for decades through deep institutional support within Pakistan's security establishment, which views these proxy forces as strategic assets rather than terrorist threats. The April 2025 Pahalgam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

Such an infrastructure poses immediate danger to regional stability, particularly to India, which continues bearing the human cost of Pakistan's proxy warfare. This is not merely a bilateral issue but a global challenge which threatens the rules-based international order. Effectively addressing this threat requires unwavering international pressure on Pakistan to permanently dismantle – not merely rebrand or temporarily restrain – these terrorist organisations and the state apparatus that sustains them.

Brijesh Singh is a senior IPS officer and author of 'The Cloud Chariot'. Views are personal.

THE GIST

The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed — a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions.

The Jaish-e-Mohammed's operational history includes the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *fidayeen* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities.

The April 2025 Pahalgam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client has entered into an agreement for purchase of the Immovable Property described in the Schedule hereunder from the owner **SRI. L. V. SHIVAKUMAR, S/o. Late Sri. Late L. N. Vasantharadya,** aged about 65 years, residing at No.192, 7th Main, 4th Cross, RPC Layout, Hampinagar, Bangalore-560104. Any person/s having any claim/rights/interest in the said property or any objections for said sale of the property, may file their objections in writing, along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the said property and my client/s shall be advised to proceed with the purchase.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT Piece and Parcel of the Agricultural Land bearing Sy.No.168, measuring an extent of 4 Acres out of 4 Acres 26 Guntas, situated at Lakshmipura Village, Kutagal Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk, Ramangara District and bounded on the

East by : Land belongs to sons of H. C. Paramashivaiah,
West by : Land belongs to L. V. Vijaya Kumar,
North by : Land belongs to L. S. Gangadharaiah & L. S. Rajashekaraiah,
South by : Land belongs to L. H. Lingappa.

Place : Bengaluru,
Dated: 07-05-2025

Sd/-, Mr. K.B. Thippe Swamy, Advocate,
#22, LS-25, 1st Floor, SSB Mattada Complex, Tank Bund Road, Bangalore - 560009.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC MULBAGAL
O.S.No. 73/2024

PLAINTIFF: Mr. A. NARAYANA REDDY, Aged about 49 years,
S/o Beedha Reddy, Residing at Nangali Village & Post, Byrkur Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka-563132

- Vs -

DEFENDANTS: AMBA MUNISEKHAR AND ANOTHER
D1. Mr. AMBA MUNISEKHAR, Aged about 60 years,
S/o Late. Samba Moorthy, Residing at Veerisettipalli Village & Post, Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellor District, Tamilnadu-630352,
Also at: Mallekuppa Village, Near Nangali, Byrkur Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District.
And also at: No. 2668, Kings Ford Avenue, Burnby, British Colombia, Canada.

PAPER PUBLICATION

That the plaintiff in the above case, filed the above suit against the defendants for the relief of permanent injunction and such other reliefs in respect of the schedule property, though the defendant no.1 is residing in the above address, but you have intentionally avoiding court summons, hence your presence is very much necessary for proper adjudication of the subject matter of the suit and for disposal of the above suit. Hence if any objections on your part, about this suit, then you shall appear before this hon'ble court on **03.06.2025** at about **11-00 A.M.** either in person or through your counsel. If not, the court will be proceed as per law in your absence.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of vacant Site bearing Nos.4, 7, 3 & 8 formed in converted Sy. No. 114 of Mudigere Village, Byrkur Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District, the panchayath assigned khatha No.173/4 known as Vijayanagara Layout, measuring East to West: 24.384 Meters which is equivalent to 60 feet and North to South: 18.288 Meters which is equivalent to 80 feet in all measuring 445.93 square meters and bounded on the:- **East by:** Site Nos.5 & 6, **West by:** Site Nos. 1, 2, 9 & 10, **North by:** Panchayath Road, and **South by:** Panchayath Road.
By the orders of this Hon'ble court on 05.05.2025.

By the Order of the Court
Sd/- Shirasthedar
Prl. Civil Judge and JMFC Court at Mulbagal

Advocate for plaintiff
Sri. Rajagopal Naidu and Durgaprasad, Advocates
Mulbagal, Mob.: 9845012455, 9739688646
Place: Mulbagal **Date: 08.05.2025**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE-Proc/AEE-1/2025-26/296-313 Date:07.05.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Numbers:

Sl. No.	Enquiry number/ Name of the Work
1	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2227** **Combined Package for,** **Work-A:** Augmentation of 2x10MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformers by 2x20 MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformers at **110/11 kV Hunaseghatta Sub-Station** in Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Work-B:** Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer and associated 11KV switchgears at **110/11kV Karadi Sub Station** in Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Work-C:** Providing additional 1x10MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformer and associated 11kV Switchgear at **110/11kV Gungurumale Sub Station** in Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District, on **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/Equipments (Excluding supply of 10MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformers & 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. Date of availability of bids in KPP Portal is on or after **08.05.2025.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **09.06.2025@15:00hrs.**
2	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2228** **Combined Package for,** **Work-A:** Replacement of 1x10 MVA, 110/33-11kV Transformer by 1x20 MVA, 110/33-11kV Transformer at **110/11kV K G Temple Sub-Station** in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Work-B:** Providing additional 1x10MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformer and associated 11kV Switchgear at **110/11k V Keregodi Sub Station** in Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District, on **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments (Excluding supply of 10MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformer & 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. Date of availability of bids in KPP Portal is on or after **09.05.2025.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **09.06.2025@15:00hrs.**
3	**KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2229** **Combined Package for,** **Work-A:** Providing additional 1x20 MVA, 110/33-11kV Transformer at **220/110/11kV Nittur Sub Station** in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Work-B:** Replacement of 2x10MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformers at 1**10/11kV Bidare Sub Station** in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District. **Work-C:** Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer at **110/11kV Ungra Sub Station** in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District, on **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/Equipments(Excluding supply 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. Date of availability of bids in KPP Portal is on or after **12.05.2025.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **11.06.2025@15:00hrs.**

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech)., Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) Government of India), has accorded the Expansion and Modified Environmental Clearance for the construction of "Embassy Crescent" a Commercial Development project being developedby M/s. Embassy Property Developments Private Limited, at property bearing Khatha No. 66/49/1, ByatarayanapuraWard, Survey No. 49/1 & 49/2 of Hebbala Village, KasabaHobli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru Urban District. Vide order No. SEIAA 85 CON 2025 Dated 06.05.2025. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the KSPCB / SEIAA office and the website of Environment & Ecology departmentat http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in or http://environmentclearance.nic.in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client intends to purchase the property morefully described in the schedule hereunder from its lawful owner **SRI. R. MANJUNATH S/o. Sri. Late. Rangaswamy** Residing at Kalpataru Nilaya, Door No.3,13th Main Road, Opposite to Brundavananagara swimming pool, J.P.Park, Mathikere, BENGALURU – 560 054. and if any person(s) having any objections or claims, may send their objections with all supportive documents to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication failing which my clients would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there is no claim or objections.

SCHEDULE

Property bearing site No.31 Municipal No.43 Old No. 76 and Old PID No.4-119-43, new E-PID No.5388727177 and Property No76/43 situated at 10th Main Road, Gokul 1st Stage, 3rd Phase, BBMP Ward No. 45, Malleshwaram Measuring East to West: 50-0 feet and North to South: 30-0 feet in total Measuring 1,500 square feet with Ac Sheet Roofed house and bounded as follows:-

East by :: Site No.2, **West by** :: Road,
North by :: Site No.32, **South by** :: Site No.30.

Place: Bengaluru Date: 08.05.2025

N. Adinarayan Reddy, Advocate
No. 403-10-2, 13th Main, 8th Cross, 1st stage, 2nd Phase, Gokula, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054. Ph: 9845706889

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

Call for Applications

Karnataka Innovation & Technology Society (KITS) is the implementation arm of the Department of El., IT & Bt intends to hire the resources on contract basis and the details are given below:-

Designation : Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Centre of Excellence in Health-Tech and Med-Tech

No of Posts: 01.

Minimum Qualification :

PhD (Pharmacy, Biotechnology, Life Sciences, Medical Devices, Clinical Research) or MBBS

Experience :

10 - 15 years of experience in research/Incubation, Innovation/ commercialization and leadership experience in the medical device / pharmaceutical/biotech industry of a large and complex organization.

Pay Scale :

Rs. 48 - 50 Lakhs (per Annum)

Last date for submission of application is 30 days from date of publication of advertisement. For more information, please log on to https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in. The eligible candidates should submit their application in prescribed format along with supporting documents as mentioned on the website through email to gm2.ktech@gov.in

Interview will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. The decision of selection committee will be final and binding.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231006

DIPR/CP/540/AKAR/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Water Resources Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
UKP, Reh. Divn No-2, Almatti.
Tq:Nidagundi, Dist:Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281049

No.UKP/REH-2/DB/KPPP/Tender-01/2025-26/113 Dated:06.05.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP-Portal only) (Two Cover System)

In accordance with The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, the Percentage rate Electronic Tenders through kppp platform in Two cover system in KW-3 & 4 thruogh standard Tender documents are invited by the Executive Engineer, UKP, Reh. Division No.2, Almatti on behalf of The Governor of Karnataka State from Registered Contractors of Registered KPWD Class-I. The details of works tendered and dates are shown below. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and shall be submitted in e-procurement portal.

Construction of RCC side drains internal roads at chikkagalagali (Mahalbagayat) in Vijaypura Taluka, Extension and upgradation primary school building Kolhar Rc,Consruction of Yatri nivas at ingleshwar in Basavana Bagewadi taluka and Construction of samudaya bhavan at Kengal kadapatti R C in hunagund Taluka **Total No. of works – 04 Nos.**

Amount put to Tender **Maximum** Rs. 392.80 Lakhs **& Minimum** Rs. 51.03 Lakhs, EMD Amount **Maximum Rs.** 5.89 Lakhs **& Minimum** Rs. 0.52 Lakhs.

1) Last date for Tender querries/clarification: **13.05.2025** upto **09.30** A.M.
2) Pre bid meeting on **13.05.2025** at **12.30** P.M. at Executive Engineer, Division-2 Almatti.
3) Last date for blank tender forms and submission of completed tender documents: **02.06.2025** upto **5.00** P.M.
4) Opening of technical bid: **04.06.2025 at 11.30 A.M.**
5) Financial bids will be opened after approval of technical bids.

(The Estimate amount put to Tender is Exclusive of GST. The tenderer should quote Excluding with GST. GST shall be paid separately @ prevailing rates during billing)

For more information contact the Office of the Executive Engineer,UKP.Reh.Divn No.2, Almatti during working hours **on or after 08-05-2025** website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, UKP. Reh. Divn No-2, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/061/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

An initiative of the Dept of IT, BT and S&T, GoK
Email: gm.admin@karnatakadigital.in

RFP Code: KD EM/RFP/04/ 2025-26 Dated: 07 May 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are invited from reputed/ experienced firms/ companies/ agencies for the purpose of providing a Digital and Social Media Partner for KDEM.

Last date of application: 23 May 2025 up to 5:00 PM
RFP Document No. KDEM/2025-26/SE0003 is available on the KPP portal (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) from 7 May 2025.
Details can also be obtained from our website **www.karnatakadigital.in**

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

An initiative of the Dept of IT, BT and S&T, GoK
Email: gm.admin@karnatakadigital.in

RFP Code: KD EM/RFP/03/ 2025-26 Dated: 07 May 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are invited from reputed/ experienced firms/ companies/ agenciesfor the Procurement of Computer Peripherals: Keyboard and mouse Combo, Seagate 500 GB HDD, Zebronics 19-inch LED Monitor, and service and installation.

Last date of application: 15 May 2025 up to 5:30 PM
RFP Document No. **KDEM/2025-26/IND0001is available on the KPP portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from 7 May 2025.**
Details can also be obtained from our website **www.karnatakadigital.in**

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

E-TENDER FOR SELECTION OF CA FIRMS FOR INTERNAL AUDIT OF KITS

Notification No.: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0027 Date : 08.05.2025

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) intends to appoint a Chartered Accountant Firm to undertake Internal Audit Service of KITS. In this regard, KITS invites qualified and experienced Chartered Accountant firms to participate in a E-Tender.

Interested tenderers are requested to register in the e-procurement platform well in advance.

The deadline for submission of the proposal through e-tender mode is on or before 22.05.2025 by 4.00 p.m.

For detailed information and tender documents, visit our official website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231006 / +91-7204304904
E-mail: rgep.startupkar@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/529/AKAR/2025-26

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

BBMP Ward No. 9, Bangalore City, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage Layout, Sumbramanya Nagar, A Block, Muneshwara Temple Road, Property bearing Old Municipal No. 4216 and 4216/A Building etc., Notice is hereby given to public that the Original BDA Sale Deed and Original Possession Certificate were lost on before 2000. In this regard we have registered a police complaint, complaint no P S Crime branch: 1597113/2005 on dated 07-05-2025. Request if somebody finds the Original documents should kindly give it back to the addressee below.

Mr. M N Padmanabhan,
Address: S/o Sri. Nagarajan. M.R., residing at No. 27. 4th Cross, Papareddy palya, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072.
Mobile number: **9449216473**
Or to the nearest police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner, **M/s.Cachet Projects LLP,** having its office at No.2566, Vldlam, 24th Main, 13th Cross, HSR Layout Sector-1, Bengaluru 560102, represented by its Partner Mr.Chiranjeevi Bathula they has acquired title to the same under a Supplemental Sharing Agreement dated 04.03.2022 as document No.9953/21-22 of Book I, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal, Bengaluru.

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential **Plot No.14** having 1661 Sq. feet and EPA of 221.60 sq.ft in total of **1882.60 sq.ft** and constructed a 4 BHK Villa having total built up area of **3003.95 Sq.ft,** along with **TWO** Car Parking spaces carved out of converted land bearing **Survey No.63/1,** admeasuring **1 Acre 25 Guntas** situated at S.Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, residential layout, known as **"NATURA ATAVI II"** and bounded on:

East By : Open Space & Park
West By : 6 Meters Wide Road
North By : Open Area
South By : Plot/Villa No.15

Tejaswini
Advocate
1698, 8th Main,HAL III Stage, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru – 560 042
Place : Bengaluru Date : 08.05.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HERERBY GIVEN THAT the land owners as mentioned under with have represented that they are the owners of the properties to the extent as mentioned it is brought to the Notice of the General Public that my client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the said land owners. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule properties or any part thereof by way of inheritance, Mortgage, Sale, Conveyance, MOU, agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lean, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the under singed within 7 days from the date of publication hereof failing which my client shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any will be considered as waived.

Sl No.	Village	Name of Land Owners	Sy No.	Extant
1	Bommavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District	Puttesha Prabhu B P bin Puttaraju	103/1	03 Acre 21.08 Guntas (excluding 07 Guntas "B" Kharab)
2		Narasimhamurthy bin Krishnappa	119/5	10 Guntas out of 19 Guntas
3		Shobha w/o late Manjunath	124/1	00 Acre 28.08 Guntas
4		Chikkathayamma	124/2	01 Acre 31 Guntas
5		Padmavati w/o Rajanna Urf Venkatesh	124/7	00 Acre 22.08 Guntas

Bangalore
Date: 07/05/2025

H S HAYATH KHAN B.COM., LL.B., Advocate
No.106/39, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560069
e-mail hshkadvocate@gmail.com

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.

No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/02/2025-26 Date: 07.05.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BMTC Invites Tender for Procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPP portal
		Regular Tender	
1	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0094/**CALL-2**	Procurement of Kyocera Cartridge, Epson Ribbon Cartridge.	22-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0180	Procurement of Air filters, Oil Filters and Fuel Filters.	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
3	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0181	Procurement of Piston Assembly & Ring Sets.	23-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
4	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0182	Procurement of Thin Walled Bearings.	22-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
5	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0183	Procurement of Dash Board Instruments.	23-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
6	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0184	Procurement of Auto Electricals items.	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
7	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0185	Procurement of Brake Liners and Clutch facings with rivets.	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
8	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0186	Procurement of Engine Valves, Guides & Inserts.	22-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
9	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0187	Procurement of Liquid urea (AUS-32) for BS VI vehicles.	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
10	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0188	Procurement of Automotive Batteries.	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
11	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0189	Procurement of Aluminium Sheets.	23-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
12	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0190	Procurement of G.P. Coil and H.R. Sheets.	23-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of tender in kpp-portal is extended as under.			
13	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0174	Procurement of Automotive Glasses	09-06-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
14	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0178	Procurement of Drill Bits	22-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through kpp portal only.

Note: Interested Suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log in to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell phone No:080-22230960, 080-22234115. Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eprochelppdesk.com for further information required.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-10/268/2025-26 **Date: 07.05.2025**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Providing water supply Distribution Network for Harohalli Industrial Area 1st Phase & 2nd Phase, Harohalli Taluk, Ramanagar District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **23.05.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/548/Zen/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

DAY 48

SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

Play now & start winning!

1. What word connects a portion of ice cream, an exclusive news story, and a modern cricketing shot?
2. Which iconic stadium in South Africa hosts the annual Pink ODI, where the national team wears pink to raise breast cancer awareness?
3. At the 2015 Pink ODI at the Wanderers, who smashed the fastest ODI century, reaching the milestone in just 31 balls against the West Indies?

*T&C apply.

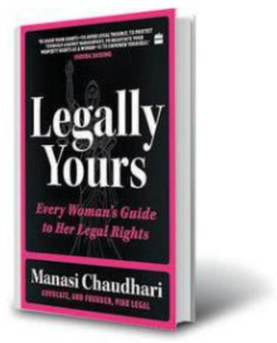
Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

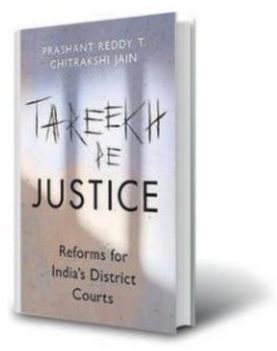
Yesterday's poster: Steve Waugh

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Hasim Banu Bibi, Kalna | 2. Amrutha Varshini.M.K, Mysuru | 3. Anand Prabu, Ranipet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bastions of justice: A view of the Madras High Court in Chennai. M. MOORTHY





Reimagining access to justice and rectifying systemic barriers

Amid a slew of challenges faced by the judiciary, two books, one advocating for reforms in district courts, and the other democratising legal knowledge for women, offer a roadmap to restoring public trust and advancing justice

Aaratrika Bhaumik

Public confidence in the Indian judiciary appears to be wavering due to a slew of reasons. The alleged discovery of burnt currency notes at the residence of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma has reignited concerns over judicial corruption and prompted several judges to publicly declare their assets.

There is also a perception that caste, religion, and political affiliations often dictate judicial conduct. Recently, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court delivered a speech at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event. Meanwhile, the continuing spectacle of "bulldozer justice", despite the Supreme Court rendering such extra-judicial demolitions illegal, further signals the increasing pressures on the judiciary.

Rethinking judicial reforms

Amid a credibility crisis, *Tareekh Pe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts* (Simon & Schuster) by Prashant Reddy T. and Chitrakshi Jain offers a timely and critical intervention. The authors argue that meaningful judicial reforms must begin at the level of the district courts – the first and often the only point of contact for most Indian litigants. Far removed from the grandeur of constitutional benches, these courts often operate from dilapidated facilities. Yet they form the backbone of the judiciary, adjudicating the vast majority of civil and criminal cases across the country.

Reddy and Jain challenge the popular narrative that a 'resource crunch' is the primary affliction of the district judiciary, manifesting in burgeoning case backlogs and a pervasive culture of adjournments. These visible systemic infirmities are merely the tip of the iceberg. Drawing on anecdotal evidence, the authors echo a concern once voiced by former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud – that district judges operate under the looming threat of retribution, acutely aware that delivering a verdict perceived as unpalatable to the ruling dispensation could invite Kafkaesque disciplinary proceedings. These enquiries, initiated by the High Courts, have routinely admitted unreliable hearsay evidence, resulting in the arbitrary dismissal of judges.

Culture of opacity

Even more concerning is the secrecy surrounding these proceedings. The authors are unflinching in their critique: "While the judiciary has been vocal about advocating for transparency in government, it has remained resistant to subjecting itself to external scrutiny."

This entrenched culture of opacity extends to judicial statistics. The book raises serious concerns about the reliability of data published on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), an online repository launched in 2015 under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project to track case statuses across all levels of the judiciary. The authors draw attention to the NJDG's own disclaimer, which concedes that it does not offer verified or authentic information. With scathing candour, they remark, "These are strange disclaimers for the e-courts project, which has consumed ₹2,308 crore of public money since its inception in 2005."

Reddy and Jain also flag instances where the Supreme Court has arbitrarily invoked Article 121 of the Constitution to withhold statistical information from Parliament. While the provision restricts parliamentary debate on the conduct of individual judges except during impeachment proceedings, they contend that it cannot be used to insulate the judiciary's performance from legitimate scrutiny. Adopting a similar adversarial stance, the Supreme Court Registry has aggressively litigated against Right to Information (RTI) requests filed by citizens seeking data on judicial delays and other systemic limitations.

In the final sections of the book, three radical reforms are proposed to fundamentally reimagine the justice system. The first involves restructuring the judiciary to mirror the U.S. model, with two parallel hierarchies of courts – one to adjudicate disputes under parliamentary law and another under State laws. Pointing to the growing trend of 'tribunalisation' as evidence that this shift is already in motion, they argue that such a framework would bolster accountability by establishing clearer chains of command. The second proposal advocates for the reintroduction of jury trials to foster civic engagement. While acknowledging the additional resource demands, the authors reason that the potential to restore institutional credibility and strengthen civic culture far outweighs the marginal increase in costs. Lastly, they underscore the importance of procedural law in ensuring fairness and predictability in adjudication.

Demystifying the law

Making justice truly accessible requires not only institutional reforms but also a concerted effort to cultivate greater awareness of legal rights. This is particularly crucial for women, who are increasingly vulnerable to violence, even within the confines of their homes. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-2021 revealed that 29.3% of married Indian women aged 18 to 49 have experienced domestic or sexual violence, yet a staggering 87% of victims of marital violence do not seek help. All too often, due to a lack of legal literacy, countless women endure abuse, exploitation, and mistreatment in silence. *Legally Yours* (HarperCollins) by Manasi Chaudhari serves as a beacon of hope, offering women a comprehensive resource to understand and assert their legal rights.

Drawing on her decades of experience as a family lawyer, Chaudhari is cognisant that legal literacy extends far beyond merely knowing that laws exist. It requires a nuanced understanding of how legal provisions can be meaningfully applied to navigate the complex realities of women's personal and professional lives. Her book offers practical insights and actionable solutions to a range of issues that many women confront daily: What recourse is available if someone threatens to leak private photos? What are the property rights in a live-in relationship? How can one respond to workplace sexual harassment? What remedies are available if an employer unlawfully withholds maternity benefits?

Yet, Chaudhari remains mindful of her audience, consciously avoiding the intimidating jargon typically associated with legal discourse. Instead, she infuses the book with engaging elements – Bollywood references, quizzes, and group activities. She also debunks several common myths: that domestic violence only involves physical abuse and protects only married women; that silence constitutes consent; and that maternity leave is unavailable to women who suffer a miscarriage, among others.

In doing so, the book democratises legal knowledge and empowers a crucial stakeholder to confidently navigate a system that too often feels alienating.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Some significant events occurred on May 8. Here is a quiz on observances, birthdays and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

On this day in 1970, the final studio album of this famous rock band was released. However, this was not the last album they recorded before they disbanded. Identify both the albums and the band.

QUESTION 2

This person became the first woman to graduate from the Citadel, a formerly all-male military college in South Carolina on this day in 1999. She is now a Congresswoman. Identify the person.

QUESTION 3

On 8 May 1980, the 33rd World Health Assembly officially declared that the world is free of this disease. A highly contagious disease, it is estimated that it killed between 300 million and 500 million people in the 20th century alone. Identify the disease.

QUESTION 4

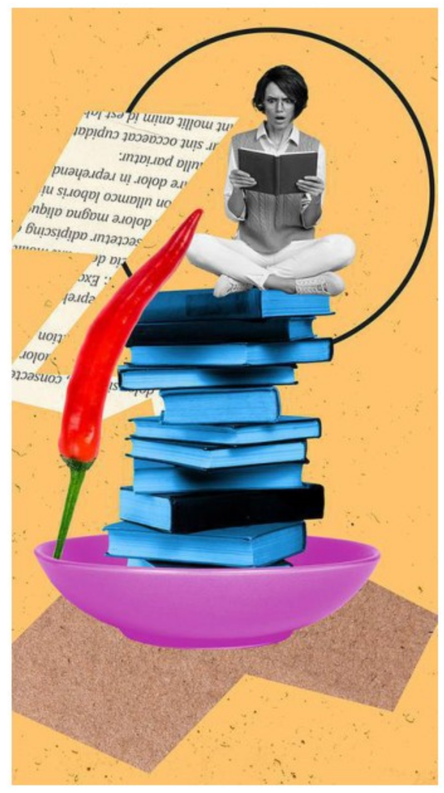
Today, this carbonated drink is a success story and is one of the largest companies in the U.S. But it was originally touted to be a tonic. Name the company and its founder.

QUESTION 5

This mountain, whose name is a French term meaning "Bald" erupted on this day in 1902 killing approximately 15% of the island's population. Name the mountain.

Visual question:
A painting of this artist, who died on this day, is seen in the picture. He is known for his creative relationship with Vincent van Gogh. Identify the painter and the painting. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The older name of the Met Gala. **Ans: Costume Institute Benefit**
2. The Met Gala is held for the benefit of this museum's institute. **Ans: Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute**
3. This event is organised by this fashion magazine. **Ans: *Vogue***
4. This person established the Met Gala in this year. **Ans: It was established in 1948 by Eleanor Lambert**
5. The term which means "the creation of exclusive custom-fitted high-end fashion design". **Ans: Haute Couture**
6. This Bollywood superstar made his Met Gala debut this year. **Ans: Shah Rukh Khan**
Visual: Identify this person. **Ans: Anna Wintour**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tamanjit Bisla| Pranab Biswas| Manya| Swathy



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Gosh, it's hot in here!"

"Everyone keeps saying that! I'm sick and tired of hearing it. Can't you find another way of saying the same thing? "

"How about it's like an oven in here?"

"Sounds slightly better. Anything else?"

"It's so hot out there. I think I'm going to melt."

"That's much better. I think that is an expression I'll be often using the next two months or so."

"Next two months! I hope things cool down before then."

"Me either!"

"Me either!" You mean 'me too', don't you?"

"No. I mean 'me either'. I've heard people using it in movies very often."

"I'm sure you have. But you can say 'me either' or 'me neither' only when I have said something negative and you agree with what I have said."

"What?"

"Let me give you an example. Suppose I said. 'I didn't like Braveheart', if you didn't like Braveheart too..."

"...then I could reply 'me neither' or 'me either'."

"That's correct. By saying 'me neither' or 'me either', what you mean is that you too didn't like the movie."

"I've understood that, but..."

"... but if on the other hand, I say, 'I liked Braveheart', then you cannot reply 'me either' or 'me neither'. If you liked the movie, then you have to say 'me too', or 'so did I'. But if you didn't like it, then you would have to say. 'I didn't'."

"I cannot say 'me neither'?"

"No. you cannot. 'Me either' and 'me neither' are used only when I have said something negative about something or someone. If I say, I don't like Supriya, then you could reply 'me either' or 'me neither', if you don t like Supriya too."

"So, by saying 'me either' or 'me neither', I'm agreeing with something negative that you have said."

"Exactly! I don't like summer."

"Me neither!"

"I prefer winter to summer."

"Me too!"

"Good! But remember one thing, 'me neither' and 'me either' are used in speech and not in writing."

"They are informal expressions?"

"That's right. Ooooph, it's getting really hot in here. I wish I had an AC."

"Me too"!

Published in The Hindu on June 4, 1996.

Word of the day

Scruples:
motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions

Synonyms: conscience, moral sense, sense of right and wrong

Usage: *I have no scruples about taking his money.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/scruplespro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈskɹuːpəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

KEA lets off student who impersonated friend to take CET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided not to initiate action against a student who attempted to appear for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (CET) by impersonating her friend and was, at the last minute, caught through a QR code-based facial recognition app.

The KEA took the decision based on a report submitted by the principal of the college, where the girl studied II PU.

"It has since emerged that the student, having failed the II PU examination, was not aware that she could appear for CET. However, she concealed her II PU results from her parents, who were determined that their daughter appear for CET. To oblige them, she doctored her friend's CET admission ticket and tried to appear for CET," a senior KEA officer said. H. Prasanna, executive director, KEA, said the student had been let off with a stern warning. "On humanitarian grounds, we have decided not to initiate any action against her. Pressure from her parents prompted her to take such a desperate step," he said.

The incident took place at the Silver Valley Public PU College exam centre at Malleswaram on April 17, following which KEA ordered a probe.

Assigning BBMP responsibility to BMRCL MD draws criticism

Activists say this move, especially at a time when civic body is undergoing a major governance overhaul and BMRCL is grappling with setbacks on its Yellow Line launch, could hamper the city's critical infrastructure development

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A growing chorus of citizens and transport activists has voiced concern over the State government's decision to assign M. Maheshwar Rao, Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the additional responsibility of Chief Commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

They say this move could hamper the city's critical infrastructure development. Mr. Rao, a 1993-batch IAS officer, was appointed BBMP Chief Commissioner in April, even as he continued as head of BMRCL.

This assigning of dual responsibility has drawn criticism from those who argue that both roles demand full-time attention, especially with the Yellow Line metro set to open soon and the city's civic body undergoing major structural reforms.

"The BBMP is not a lightweight body. It deals with hundreds of issues daily. On the other hand, the BMRCL is a technically complex and high-stakes agency involving both the State and Central governments," said K.N. Krishna Prasad, a railway and urban mobility activist.

A file photo of the prototype of a coach for Namma Metro's Yellow Line.

"Expecting one officer to juggle both is unfair and impractical. It's like putting one foot in two boats. Coordination suffers, accountability slips, and public interest is sidelined," he added.

The timing of assigning Mr. Rao the dual roles has further intensified public criticism. Bengaluru is currently undergoing a governance overhaul under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, which proposes splitting BBMP into multiple smaller corporations to improve administrative efficiency. Simultaneously, BMRCL is grappling with setbacks on its Yellow Line owing to delays in coach procurement and other bottlenecks.

"There's simply too much at stake in both roles for one person to manage. The metro is a lifeline for us, and BBMP directly affects the quality of our daily lives. We need full-time officials with a singular focus and accountability. Otherwise, the city will pay the price," Mr. Prasad said.

Activists also pointed to a troubling precedent. Anjum Parvez, a former BMRCL managing director, previously held an additional portfolio in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

"It feels like the government is playing musical chairs with key posts. There's no clarity, no continuity. Citizens are left to bear the brunt of delays and inefficiencies. Bengaluru deserves better," said Shashank Rao, a tech professional from HSR Layout.

K-RIDE too

At the same time, there has been a call for the appointment of a full-time managing director (MD) for Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), the joint venture of the Centre and the State that is executing the Bengaluru suburban rail project.

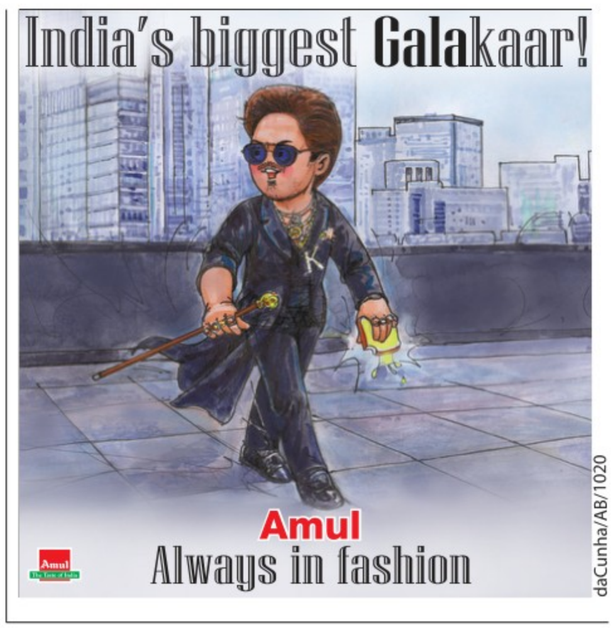
Currently, a part-time managing director appointed by the State government is supervising the project. Since July 25, 2022, K-RIDE has been without a full-time managing director.

N. Manjula, who serves as Secretary, Karnataka Infrastructure Development, Ports, and Inland Water Transport Department, also holds additional charge of K-RIDE along with Kannada and Culture.

In March, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the necessity of appointing a full-time managing director at K-RIDE.

To a question raised by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya in the Lok Sabha on March 19, Mr. Vaishnaw replied, "Currently, a part-time managing director appointed by the Karnataka government is supervising the project. There is a requirement to appoint a full-time managing director who is familiar with railway technology."

It may be noted that K-RIDE, in which the State government holds a 51% stake, is implementing the ₹15,767 crore Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project.



DKS discusses city infrastructure projects with Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and discussed projects related to Bengaluru city and Karnataka.

Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, discussed the 'ropeway buses' project and urged Mr. Gadkari to explore its feasibility as a sustainable urban transport option, said a press release.

Mr. Shivakumar urged Mr. Gadkati to take up work related to the upgradation of a road between Benagaluru and Kanakapura into six lanes and completion of a 7-km road linking the toll plaza at Kaggalipura on the outskirts of the city.

He demanded the Centre's aid for providing compensation for families whose land has been acquired for the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) connecting Dobbspet, Magadi, Ramanagara, and Harohalli. Though the work on the STRR started in 2009, compensation has not been paid, Mr. Shivakumar said in a petition to Mr. Gadkari.

Tunnel project

He discussed a proposed 60-km tunnel project that would connect east-west and north-south corridors in Bengaluru. The cost of the tunnel project has been estimated at ₹30,000 crore. The cost of the tunnel per km has been estimated at ₹500 crore. The project has been proposed to ease traffic congestion.

The tunnel project would connect NH 7 and NH 4 and ease traffic congestion in Bengaluru. The project would be taken up by both the Centre and Karnataka. Mr. Shivakumar urged the Union Minister to provide funds to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to execute the project.

Mr. Shivakumar also submitted proposals regarding elevated corridors in Bengaluru.

Mr. Shivakumar also held discussions with Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on projects of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., which has been executing the metro rail project in the city. The government has submitted a proposal seeking the Centre's clearance for 44.65 km under Phase 3, while the DRP is under preparation for another 37 km.

The Deputy Chief Minister held talks with Mr. Khattar also about waste management in the city.

In principle, I agree to hold French Bastille Day in Bengaluru, says Consul General

Consul General of France in Bengaluru Marc Lamy (second from left) with Aravind Jatti, president of Basava Samiti (right) at the launch of the book 'Vachanas in French' in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Consul General of France in Bengaluru Marc Lamy, on Wednesday, said he was "in principle" in agreement to hold the historic French Bastille Day in Bengaluru next year.

Bastille Day is the national day of France, observed on July 14 to commemorate the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, a major event of the French Revolution. The event celebrated by France in other countries as well, is a major cultural event.

Mr. Lamy was speaking after the launch of the book *Vachanas in French*, a volume of Basavanna's vachanas translated into French, a project taken up by Basava Samiti, at Alliance Francaise on Wednesday. He said the event requires massive logistical and security arrangements, which will be worked out. He also said he would positively consider restarting Campus France, an initiative that helps Indian students looking for higher education opportunities in France, at Alliance Francaise.

Aravind Jatti, president, Basava Samiti, said the samiti had got Basavanna's vachanas translated into 27 Indian languages and five foreign languages.

"The inherent strength of Basavanna's vachanas has enabled us to reach out to the global audience," he said.

Kantara: Chapter 1 film crew member drowns

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 32-year-old member of the crew filming Kannada movie *Kantara: Chapter 1* drowned in the Souparnika at Kollur in Udupi district on Tuesday.

The police gave the name of the deceased as M.F. Kapil, a native of Kottayam in Kerala. The police said after lunch, Kapil went to the river where he was caught in the cross currents. Locals rescued him from the water, but Kapil died later.

Woman booked for 'taking away' a high-end car over road-rage incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

She is also accused of assaulting the car owner, a businessman

The Cubbon Park police on Tuesday registered an FIR against a woman and her associates for "taking away" a high-end car and other valuables belonging to a city-based businessman after assaulting him over a fight over a minor accident on Lavelle Road on Saturday.

The victim, Vinay Gowda, in his complaint, said he was taking out his car from the basement of the apartment he stays in on Lavelle Road when his car accidentally touched another car parked on the roadside.

Valuables

The owner of the car, later identified as Deepti Katragadda, along with her associates, had a verbal duel over damaging her car and allegedly assaulted Vinay. The accused later took away the car along with the valuables, including an expensive pair of goggles, wallet, and cash kept in the car, according to the complaint.

Phone returned

The accused had also taken away his mobile phone, which was later handed over to the security guard. The victim managed to get her number and called to check about his car, but the accused demanded ₹20 lakh for the damage to return the car.

After waiting for two days, the victim approached the police and filed a complaint.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR against Deepti and others, charging them with criminal liability, voluntarily causing hurt, theft, criminal intimidation, and intentional insult to provoke the breach of peace.

From Page One

'Private engineering colleges charging exorbitant fees'

As per these orders, the annual registration and other fees have been capped at ₹5,020, and tuition fees for Karnataka and non-Karnataka students capped at ₹45,000 and the same capped at ₹50,000 for foreign nationals and Non Residential Indian (NRI) students.

"I have decided to admit my son for a BCA course in a prestigious engineering college in the city. He has also scored good marks in the internal examination conducted by the college. However, the college has prescribed a fee of ₹2.5 lakh. If you question, the management is asking us to go elsewhere," said Venkatesh, a parent from Bengaluru.

"An engineering college working under a prestigious private university is asking students to pay ₹2.3 lakh for a BBA course. Private engineering colleges are charging more fees for BBA and BCA courses than engineering courses. The government should bring fee regulation to degree courses as well," urged Shashank N., a student.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 08	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 15:20	SET 03:00
FRIDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 16:04	SET 03:33
SATURDAY, MAY. 10	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 16:49	SET 04:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	33	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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NIFTEM KUNDLI
MOFPI
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, KUNDLI
(AN INSTIUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE (INI) UNDER MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES, GOVT OF INDIA)
Plot No.97, Sector-56, HSIIDC Industrial Estate, Kundli -131028, Sonepat, Haryana
Website: www.niftem.ac.in, E-Mail: admission@niftem.ac.in, PHONE: 0130-228-1101

ADMISSION NOTICE 2025-26

IMPORTANT DATES	Opening	Closing
Online Application for M.Tech. Gate/ Non-GATE, MBA, E-MBA & Ph.D. Programmes	22.04.2025	02.06.2025
Online Application for B.Tech. Programme	19.05.2025	*30.06.2025

*Closing date may be extended based on declaration of XII class & National Level Test results.

Programmes offered at NIFTEM-Kundli

1. B.Tech. Four years Regular Degree Programme in Food Technology and Management (FTM)
(i) 100 seats, Admission through JoSAA/CSAB-2025 & (ii) 100 seats, through valid JEE/CUET/NEET 2025 score.
2. M.Tech. Two years Regular Degree Programme in following streams:
(i) Food Technology and Management (FTM) (ii) Food Process Engineering and Management (FPEM) (iii) Food Safety and Quality Management (FSQM) (iv) Food Supply Chain Management (FSCM) & (v) Food Plant Operations Management (FPOM)
3. MBA Two years Regular Degree Programme with dual specialization:
(i) Food & Agri Business Management (Compulsory) & (ii) Marketing/Finance/International Business (anyone to be chosen).
*Executive MBA Two years Degree Programme with dual specialization:
(i) Marketing (ii) Finance (iii) Food & Agribusiness Management
4. Ph. D. Programme (Regular/ Industrial Sponsored/ Academia Sponsored) in following streams:
(i) Food Science & Technology (FST), (ii) Food Engineering (FE), (iii) Food Business Management & Entrepreneurship Development (FBM&ED), (iv) Interdisciplinary Sciences (IDS), (v) Agriculture & Environmental Sciences (AES).

How to apply: Applicants are required to apply online at https://niftemadm.samarth.edu.in/
Candidates belonging to Unreserved/OBC-NCL/EWS categories are required to pay an application fee of ₹1000/- for each application and the Candidates belonging to SC/ST/PwD categories are required to pay an application fee of ₹500/- for each application. The bank or any other card charges etc. will be borne by the candidates.
For eligibility and other details, applicants should refer to Admission Brochure available on NIFTEM-K's website www.niftem.ac.in
Registrar

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राइसुप्रौसं NIELIT National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Calicut Deemed to be University
Last Date to Apply 20.05.2025 ● Duration : 2 years
Apply Link: https://nltchd.info/nielituniv25/default.aspx
https:// nielit.gov.in/calicut/index.php WhatsApp No 9446711666
NIT Campus PO, Kozhikode, Kerala -673601. PH: 04952287266

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BBMP now mandates legal undertaking to put brakes on unauthorised constructions

Builders will have to transfer housing units to buyers only after obtaining occupancy and completion certificates; initiative aims to plug a critical loophole, says BBMP official

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In a significant move to combat the unchecked growth of unauthorised buildings, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has made it compulsory for builders and property owners to submit a legal undertaking stating that housing units will be transferred to buyers only after obtaining the occupancy certificate (OC) and completion certificate (CC).

A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu* that building plan approvals would now be contingent on this commitment. The initiative aims to plug a critical loophole where developers, after securing plan sanctions and commencement certificates, bypass the final OC stage – frequently due to structural violations such as excess floors or deviations from the sanctioned blueprint.

A file photo of an unauthorised building being demolished in Mahadevapura ward in Bengaluru.

The civic body has raised concerns over the financial and safety implications of this trend. Many buildings have been constructed in violation of rules, causing significant revenue loss to the BBMP and putting residents at risk. Following a spate of building collapses, a city-wide survey was launched, which identified thousands of unauthorised constructions. However, enforcement actions such as demolition have lagged, eroding effectiveness of regulation.

To address this, the BBMP has directed zonal town planning officers and assistant directors to conduct bimonthly inspections and upload reports. Any violations must be reported to the subdivision's assistant executive engineers for further legal action, the official said.

Assistant engineers in each ward are now responsible for detecting and acting against illegal constructions. In accordance with the Supreme Court guidelines, periodic inspections are mandatory, with specific months – January, March, May, September, and November – earmarked for site assessments. The central office's Deputy Director of Town Planning will oversee these operations and report findings to higher authorities.

In cases where unauthorised construction is detected post-OC issuance, assistant revenue officials and engineers are required to inform the subdivision officers. Action will be taken under legal provisions. Additionally, zonal commissioners must notify Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to sever electricity and water connections to illegal structures once official notices are issued.

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session in city today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling - which started on April 26 and will go on till May 18 - will be held in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The session will be held at Jnanajyothi Auditorium, Central College campus.

The landmark event, in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru, continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well informed academic and career decisions.

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, it brings together well-known educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation, NEET, and CET counselling conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) officials and career opportunities in diverse fields, including arts, science, commerce, law, management, engineering, medicine, CA, cost management, fashion designing, performing arts, animation, journalism, architecture, and more.

If the students are either exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

The registration for each event will be held between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m., while the main programme will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The entry will be free for all students and parents. Each participating student will receive a complimentary copy of *The Hindu's Career Counselling Handbook* – a comprehensive resource featuring over 30 articles authored by distinguished academicians and industry professionals.

This exclusive handbook aligns with contemporary academic trends and evolving career landscapes. The sponsors of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling are:

Platinum sponsor: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Presidency University; Reva University;

Gold sponsors: R.V. University, Bengaluru, Chanakya University, Bengaluru, East Point Group of Institutions; Cambridge Group of Institutions; Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.

Silver sponsors: GSSS School of Architecture for Women, Mysuru; JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru; JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru; Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru; Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan; Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru; Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru; Soundarya Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Adichunchanagiri University; The Christ (Deemed to be University); CMR University; Indian Institute of Fashion Technology; Karnataka Milk Federation; MSIL, and K.S. Group of Institutions.

Associate sponsors: Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi; SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire; The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Karnataka Bank; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar; Bapuji Educational Association (Regd.), Davangere; Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi; VTU; Navkis Engineering College, BLDE Association, Vijayapura; and IDBI Bank.

Regional sponsor: MVJ College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Snack partner: Naturo.

Those who wish to register for the event use this link: https://newsth.live/CET2025ED

For more information, call: 9448160126 / 9448871815.

The schedule

PLACE	DATE	VENUE	ADDRESS
Bengaluru Central	08-05-2025	Jnanajyothi Auditorium	#11, Central College campus, Bengaluru Central University, Palace Road, Bengaluru
Mangaluru	17-05-2025	Sri Sudheendra Auditorium	Canara High School campus, Kodiabail, Mangaluru
Bidar	17-05-2025	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar
Tumakuru	18-05-2025	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology , Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18-05-2025	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

PUCL criticises proposal to organise Cauvery Aarti

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Mysuru, has criticised the State government's proposal to organise a Cauvery Aarti at an estimated cost of nearly ₹100 crore and against the recommendations of the Department of Finance.

The PUCL said in a release that the traditional 'Baagina' offered to the river whenever KRS fills to the brim, and the Threethotbava rites at Talacauvery are enough religious offerings to the river.

In a release, Kamal Gopinath, president of PUCL, and V. Purushotam, vice-president, said instead of the proposed Cauvery Aarti, the same amont can be spent to take concrete initiatives to reduce the pollution in the river.

The river is polluted by chemicals from fertilizers flowing into the river from the coffee and other estates of Kodagu, and from agricultural and industrial pollutants as also effluents flowing into the river all along its route to Mysuru. The amount stipulated for Cauvery Aarti can as well be spent on reducing the river pollution, said the PUCL.

It said the State government should also focus on the restoration of natural rainwater flows into the river all along its route.

Woman booked for cheating people by offering them loans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Division Cybercrime Police are on the lookout for a woman who, posing as an executive of a private bank, has allegedly cheated many by taking money from them on the pretext of getting them loans sanctioned.

Based on the complaint filed by Pramod Abole, representing HDFC Bank Credit Intelligence and Control Unit, the police have registered an FIR against the unknown woman, charging her under Section 66 D (impersonation) and Section 66C (identity theft) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

According to the complaint, the woman, identifying herself as Suchitra S. and claiming to be an executive of the Retail Banking branch, was calling up people randomly and offering them loans. The accused also shared her ID card, allegedly with the forged logo of the bank and signature of the head of the department, to make them believe her. The accused used to demand advance payment from the applicants and got the money transferred from them through UPI on the pretext of processing charge. The cheating came to light when a few victims who lost money approached the bank and complained. The police are now trying to track down the accused based on the transaction details.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: L7255530
Dated :01-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.
Description in brief : Supply of 5 watt VHF Digital Walkie Talkie Set without Keypad and without Display to Specn. No. RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 Ver (2.1) or latest. **(Qty : 1185 Nos.)**
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 26-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Hubballi
PUB/89/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SBC-GSU-ENGG-2025-02
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Penukonda : Modernization of infrastructure like approach road & circulating area, drainage facility, merchant room, canteen facility, labours rest room, FOIS room, concreting of automobile stacking area and extension of RUB/minor bridges at Penukonda goods shed.	Rs. 21,64,75,655.54

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 21-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/85/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public that our client **Mrs.PREMA M S,** W/o. Sri.B M Raju, residing at No.179, Vidyanagar Cross, Bettahalasur, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-562157, represents that the Original Rectification deed dated 06.09.2025 registered on 05.10.2023, Registered as Document No.YAN-1-08311/2023-24 in the Office of the Sub Registrar Yalahanka, executed by **Bindu Madhavan.K, Asha Madhavan and Eeshaan Madhavan** to in favour of **Mrs.Prema.M.S** respect to the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** mentioned hereunder, is lost/misplace and not traceable.
If anybody other than the said **Mrs.PREMA M S** has any claim, right, title and interest on the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** by virtue of being in possession or otherwise of the above said Original Documents, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** other than the said **Mrs.PREMA M.S.**
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Property **Site bearing No.237,** V.P.Katha No.1072/76/9/237, **PID No.150200203101101115,** formed in Sy No.76/9, Layout formed in several Sy Nos 44/1,2 46/1A 47/1,3 of Billamaranahalli, 76/8, 9, 10 11, 76/20 of Chikkajala and 23/22, 23/26, 27 of Kadiganahalli, Layout Known as **"WOODS ENCLAVE LAYOUT Phase-1"** Situated at **Chikkajala Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East to West **80 feet** and North to South **50 feet,** in all measuring **4000 Sq.feet** and is bounded on the:
East by : 40 feet Wide Road;
West by : Site No.260;
North by : Site No.236;
South by : Site No.238;
C.V.Nagendra, Advocate,
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663, Post office Road, Opp: to Karnataka Bank, K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036.
Place:- Bangalore Date:-08.05.2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 04 UBL 2025-26
Date : 30.04.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :** Hubballi Shamiyana arrangement for various occasions like 26th' Jan, pulse polio programme, Award function, RPF raising day, 15th August and other occasions for the period of one year	Rs. 8,27,959/-
2	**Hubballi Division :** Proposed Construction of Changing room & Separate wash room for Ladies Station Master and points-Women (Total 24 Stations)	Rs. 2,76,32,347/-
3	**Hubballi Division :** Gadag-Hotgi Section:- Improvements to existing bridges No.38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57 (18 No's) between Mugalalli- Jadramakunti stations.	Rs. 2,23,70,312/-
4	**Hubballi Division :** **Sub Work-I:** Improvement to compound wall at Railway colony near ROC,Hubballi. **Sub Work-II:** Improvement to compound wall for colony behind Railway Hospital, Hubballi. **Sub Work-III:** Proposed construction of recreational hall at Hubballi. **Sub Work-IV:** Provision of alternate water supply pipelines system to staff quarters at Rail nagar colony, Hubballi. **Sub Work-V:** Aluminium paint work for FOB connecting from platform 1 to 2nd entry at Hubballi railway station. **Sub Work-VI:** Brightening/painting of outside of quarters located at Hut system in Golf link officers colony, Hubballi.	Rs. 2,12,74,019/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 Hrs on 30-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/86/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 10/2025 Date: 02.05.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	61241006B	Overhead double acting concealed door closer Device	800 Nos.	15.05.2025
02	30251780	Fixing arrangement of stainless steel Dust Bin Assembly	2768 Nos.	19.05.2025
03	79251006	Industrial safety footwear to IS 15298/2016	15872 Pairs	26.05.2025
04	33251018	Sealed Glass unit for LHB fixed window	2834 Nos.	26.05.2025
05	33255001	Supply and Installation of one Coach Set of Seats and Berths	107 Sets	16.06.2025
06	33255002	Supply of one Complete Set of Seats and Berths for LHB Coach	37 Sets	23.06.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/92/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PROJECTS DIVISION
MSIL House, # 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052. Ph:080-22264021-25
No.MSIL/PRJ/039/2025-26 Dated: 07.05.2025
SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal)
Short-term e-tender is invited from the interested Class-1 Electrical Contractors for **Shifting of existing 3 way compact RMU and HT metering cubicle, one way LBS and transformer at Old Airport Complex, Bengaluru belonging to Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), Karnataka.** Last date and time for submission of bid is **27.05.2025 up to 3.30 p.m.** Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.
Sd/- General Manager (Projects), Project Division

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer (West), Bhashyam Park, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020.
No: HO(W)/PR/180/2025-26 Date:06.05.2025
NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited from eligible Non-Governmental Organizations, Charitable Organizations, unemployed youth, and graduate pharmacists to apply with the following necessary documents to start Janaushadhi shops with the aim of providing good quality Generic Medicines to the general poor people at affordable prices through Janaushadhi shops under the Central Government's Janaushadhi program at Subedar Palya and Gandhigram health centers in Malleswaram Assembly Constituency Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.
1. Non-Government Organizations, Charitable Organizations: a) Registration Certificate of the organization and the letter of working in the organization. **b)** Pharmacist's Certificate. **c)** Aadhar and PAN Card. **d)** Address of the Janaushadhi Centers.
2. Unemployed youth with a degree in Pharmacy: a) Pharmacist's Certificate. **b)** Aadhar and PAN card. **c)** Address of the Janaushadhi Centers.
Applications should be submitted at Office of the Health Officer (West), Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bhashyam Park, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-20. Date of submission of application: **12.05.2025 from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm.**
Sd/-
Health Officer (West) BBMP.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHAMA Mahjabeen, W/o Late Adam Abdulla, r/at #17, Achutharaya Mudaliyar Road, Frazer Town Bengaluru 560005 have changed my name as Shama Mhajabeen vide affidavit dtd 07.05.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

I, PRASHANTH C, S/o K Chandrashekar, r/at #26, 2nd Main, Indira Gandhi Street, Tamarind Enclave, A.Narayanapura,Bengaluru 560016 have changed my name as Mohammed Ahaan vide affidavit dtd 07.05.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

I, RAJESAWARI Devi, W/o Dayal Singh Bist, R/at No.D-1204, 12th Floor, Nagarjuna Meadows Apartment, Phase-1, Doddaballapur Main Road, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka Post, Bangalore Dist:-560064, have changed my name from Rajesawari Devi to Rajeshwari Bist vide affidavit dated 05-05-2025 sworn before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractor & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through KPP portal for below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	Last date of submission
1.	Construction of Post Matric Engineering / Medical Boys Hostel in Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural (BCWD 1540) under NABARD RIDF Tranch-30.	Tender Reference No. KHB/2025-26/BD/ WORK_INDENT 586 & IFT No. 37/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025	3,78,65,372/-	06.06.2025 Upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/CP/YC/538/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/107/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025 (4th Call)	₹ 69,98,958/- / ₹ 1,40,000/-	18.05.2025 upto 4:00 pm	19.05.2025 after 4:30 pm
2		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/107/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025 (2nd Call)	₹ 64,89,442/- / ₹ 1,29,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2)
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

3	DE&PS	BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/21/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025	₹ 93,90,442/- / ₹ 1,87,900/-	23.05.2025 upto 11:00 am	26.05.2025 after 11:15 am
4		BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/23/2025-26 Date: 06.05.2025	₹ 92,64,306/- / ₹ 1,85,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DE&PS)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/MIA/546/2025-26

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
(A Government Undertaking)
CIN :U70100KA2015SGC081817
Karnataka One State, Many worlds Department of Tourism
No. 54, 5th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560009.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited, Bangalore Invited the Respective Tenders for Development of Karnataka Tourism at (Karnataka public procurement portal) https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The details of the Tender & Calendar of Events are available at https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Portal.

Sl. No	Work Name	Indent No
1.	Light and Sound Work for Anjanadri Hill, Gangavathi Taluk, Koppala District (Estimated Cost-624.00 Lakhs)	KTIL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT30
2.	Construction of Pradakshina patha (Phase-2) to Anjanadri Hill, Gangavathi Taluk, Koppala District (Estimated Cost-930.50 Lakhs)	KTIL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31

Tender Details are available for download in E-procurement Portal **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **Dt:16.05.2025.** Postponement of Calendar of events (if any), subsequent notification, changes, amendments and selection/ rejection of proposal shall be intimated only through Karnataka public procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers. KTIL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reasons thereof.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer and Tender Inviting Authority, Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
DIPR/CP/550/Zen/2025-26

THE HINDU
EDUCATIONPLUS career counselling 2025

Bengaluru, Karnataka

In association with

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
BEBOUNDLESS

THE HINDU GROUP

Get expert guidance on entrance exams, admissions, and career choices at the 23rd edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2025 Karnataka.

Meet experts in Medicine, Engineering, UPSC, CET, NEET, Chartered Accountancy, and Cost Accountancy. Explore top colleges and diverse career paths to make informed decisions about your future.

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Registration starts at 9:00 AM

FREE CAREER HANDBOOK

To register, scan the QR code or visit
newsth.live/CET2025PA

Thursday, May 8, 2025 | **Jnanajyothi Auditorium**
No. 11, Central College Campus, Bengaluru Central University, Palace Road.

CHIEF GUEST

Dinesh Gundu Rao
Hon'ble Minister Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka

GUEST OF HONOUR

Prof. Jalaja K R
Vice Chancellor (Acting), Bengaluru City University

GUEST OF HONOUR & MEDICINE

Dr Sujatha Rathod B L
Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

CA. Manjunath M Hallur
Chairman, ICAI-Bengaluru Branch (SIRC)

UPSC

Dr Sachin BG
AIR 41 in UPSC CSE 2024

COST MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

CMA D Abhijeet Jain
Chairman, The Institute of Cost Accounts of India Bangalore Chapter

ENGINEERING

Dr Sanjay R Chitnis
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M BG-BGE

Labour unions worried as key changes proposed to Factories Act

Meeting has been called between unions and the Dept. of Factories, Boilers, Industry Safety and Health to discuss proposals

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In a move that could impact lakhs of workers in Karnataka, the Congress government has proposed to bring changes to the Factories Act, 1948. The proposal includes removal of the remaining restrictions on women working in night shifts, allowing women to work in hazardous industries, increasing daily working hours, and increasing the threshold limit for applicability of the Factories Act.

The Union government has been pushing to dilute the labour laws over the last few years, and these changes were initially brought by the BJP government in 2023.

The Congress had promised in its manifesto ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections to remove these "anti-labour" legislations.

The proposal, according to a notice sent to trade unions by the Department of Factories, Boilers, Industry Safety and Health for a meeting scheduled on Thursday, speaks of initiating discussion on a proposal to remove restrictions that are currently in place for women in night shifts. From a blanket ban on women in night shifts, the BJP government had amended the Factories Act to allow women in night shifts, but with their consent and provision of transport facility. However, the current proposal is to dilute some of these restriction too.

The Union government has been pushing to dilute labour laws over the last few years, and changes were initially brought in by the BJP government in 2023. FILE PHOTO

The Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), comprising eight Central trade unions, including the Congress-backed Indian National Trade Union Centre (INTUC), have already taken objection, and are set to petition the government against the move. The All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) had complained to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) when the first changes were made by the BJP government.

The trade unions have also taken objection to the government initiating discussion on allowing women to work in hazardous industries. The JCTU has said that owing to prevailing socio-cultural norms of patriarchy in society, already the labour force participation rate for women and men in Karnataka is 25% and 75%, respectively. "In the garment industry, the women participation is up to 90%. Women suffer owing to oppressive conditions, including illegal employment practices of hire and fire, low wages and sexual harassment," said M. Satyanand, secretary, AITUC, Karnataka. "The BJP government had already diluted the labour laws. This government is proposing to further dilute them instead of strengthening the labour laws," he regretted.

The proposal to increase daily working hours from the current eight has been criticised, and the trade unions have pointed out that it would go against the accepted international labour standards.

On the proposal to increase the threshold of applicability of the Factories Act, the JCTU said that of about 17,000 registered factories in Karnataka, the number of registered factories with less than 20 workers is about 7,200 or about 40% of all factories. The government intends to increase the threshold from factories hiring less than 10 workers to 20 workers. "This will impact employees in factories in applicability of key provisions related to hours of work, overtime wages, annual leave with wages and safety provisions," it said.

Meenakshi Sundaram, Karnataka State general secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), said: "It is disappointing that the Congress government appears to be yielding to pressure of the industry. In fact, we were seeking rollback of these changes. The State government is trying to implement the anti-labour contents in the Labour Code."

He feared that the increase working hours would result in loss of employment since capacity in many factories remain underutilised.

SMIORE can carry out mining in Swamimalai and Ramanamalai forest blocks till 2026: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that M/s Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd. (SMIORE) can conduct mining activities in two mines situated at Swamimalai and Ramanamalai forest blocks in Ballari district up to December 5 and 10, 2026, the dates on which the forest clearance (FC) expires, even though the period of renewed mining lease is valid till December 31, 2033.

Claim rejected

However, the court rejected the Union government's claim that the mining lease granted to the company expired on December 31, 2013, and hence the FC too had expired as it was coterminus with the lease period.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun passed the order while disposing of the company's petition and setting aside a communication, issued by the Centre in June 2014 stating that FC granted to the company was co-terminus with the period of lease with respect to these two mining leases.

The Bench pointed out that the mining lease period got deemed extension under the law as the State government did not act on company's application for renewal within the specified period and later extended the lease period till December 31, 2033, with retrospective effect from 2013; and the validity of the FC granted in 2007 is valid for 20 years, which is till December 5-10, 2026.

No fresh FC till 2026

The Bench also made it clear that the company is not required to secure a fresh FC till 2026 from 2014 to carry out mining activities, as the FC is valid for 20 years.

Meanwhile, the Bench said that it does not find it necessary to consider at this stage the aspect whether the FC would stand as valid and accordingly extended up to December 31, 2033, and it is premature to decide the issue. However, the court said that the company has the liberty to approach the authorities for extension of FC and to agitate the issue at the relevant juncture in future, if required.

Lease in 1954

SMIORE, founded by the Ghorpade family, was granted mining lease in 1954 for 20 years even though the mining operation in this lease area had commenced much before the Indian (Forest) Act, 1927, came into force, when the erstwhile ruler of Sandur State granted the mining lease to a Belgium company over the area of 29 square miles equivalent to 7,511 hectares. This lease was transferred to SMIORE from January 1, 1954.

Market forces have led to degradation of forest ecosystems in Goa: Study

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Goa is often seen as a prime tourist destination rather than an ecological hotspot. A study, 'Insights into the linkages of forest structure dynamics with ecosystem services', published on May 4 in the journal *Nature*, however, evaluated the extent and condition of forest ecosystems in Goa in the central Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot.

Prioritisation of Ecologically Sensitive Regions (ESR) revealed that 54.41% of the region is highly sensitive. Land use dynamics revealed that the total forest cover declined by 3.75% during the post-1990s due to market forces associated with globalisation, along with a decline in evergreen forest cover of 10.98%, said the study.

The authors of the study, T. V. Ramachandra, Paras Negi, Tulika Mondal and Syed Ashfaq Ahmed, from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and Kuvempu University, Shivamogga, explain how large-scale land cover changes leading to land degradation and deforestation in fragile ecosystems such as the Western Ghats have impaired ecosystem services, evident from the conversion of perennial water bodies to seasonal.

This, they say, necessitates an understanding of forest structure dynamics with ecosystem services to evolve appropriate location-specific mitigation measures to arrest land degradation.

A file photo of Arambol beach in Goa. According to a study, the State harbours around 7% of endemic flowering plant species found in the Western Ghats.

"India has been experiencing desertification in most States and Union territories, and about 97.85 million hectares (29.77%) were impacted by land degradation due to the loss of vegetation cover and subsequent topsoil erosion accounting for 11.01% of degradation in the country in 2018-19, majorly contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana States. The most significant process of desertification or land degradation in Goa is evident from escalating (37.32% in 2011-13 and 35.74% in 2003-05) degradation," said the study.

Notably, Goa harbours about 7% of the endemic flowering plant species found in the Western Ghats.

The region is home to over 3,000 species of plants and flowering trees, including several IUCN Red-listed species, says the study.

Apart from land use, the study reveals that open spaces in Goa experienced a substantial reduction from 711.19 sq. km (19.21%) in 1973 to 207.1 sq. km (5.59%) in 2022 due to urban expansions with the consistent growth in built-up areas from 22.2 sq. km (0.6%) in 1973 to 180.94 sq. km (4.89%) in 2022.

"Unplanned developmental activities have contributed to rapid urbanisation leading to sprawl with the expansion of major cities such as Panaji, Mormugao, Ponda, and Mapusa, and industrial areas like Verna, which has profound impacts with fragmentation of ecosystems, resulting in biodiversity losses and erosion of essential ecosystem functions," said the study, adding that this leads to significant declines in species richness and genetic diversity, with smaller and more isolated forest fragments experiencing the greatest biodiversity loss due to reduced habitat size and increased isolation.

The agricultural landscape too has expanded, the study said.

"Forest ecosystems in Goa have witnessed change and degradation since their value is poorly understood, and not considered in the policy-making process," said the study, offering the examples of a significant decline in agricultural productivity in many Goan villages due to environmental degradation and lowered fertility of the khazan wetlands.

"Goa is trying to accelerate economic growth, and there has been tremendous pressure to divert natural systems to other uses. Hence, there is an urgent need to undertake the natural capital accounting and valuation of the ecosystem services, especially intangible benefits provided by ecosystems," said the authors.

IN-SPACe and State govt. sign MoUs to support NewSpace ecosystem

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One MoU is for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Space Technologies and another for a space manufacturing park

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and the Karnataka government have signed MoUs, including one for establishing a Centre of Excellence for Space Technologies in Bengaluru and another for setting up a public-private space manufacturing park that will anchor next-generation satellite and launch-vehicle production.

The MoUs were signed between the IN-SPACe and the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology.

According to IN-SPACe, the MoUs will establish the framework for the Karnataka government and IN-SPACe to collaborate and partner for the setting up of the Centre of Excellence for Space Technologies and the space manufacturing park.

The MoUs will enable and support the State's NewSpace ecosystem towards the national vision as per the Indian Space Policy, 2023, and promote innovation in the sector.

IN-SPACe said that it has been spearheading India's space ambitions by enabling ease of doing business with the active participation of government as well as non-governmental entities.

"As the global space ambitions soar high, IN-SPACe is acting as a nodal agency to shape India's growing space economy. This signing of MoUs with the Karnataka government aligns with the goal to give impetus to regional ambitions that club with the holistic national projections," it said.

IN-SPACe further said that as the global space sector moves from agency-driven programmes to agile public-private partnerships, today's signing cements Karnataka's role as India's launch pad for breakthrough NewSpace technologies propelled by government vision, private ingenuity and an unrivalled talent pool.

Panel formed to inspect units of drug companies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To ensure procurement of standard quality drugs, the State government has set up a team, comprising officials and senior doctors, which will inspect the manufacturing units of bidders who participate in the tenders floated by the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL).

Inspection prior to finalising the tenders will help in checking the entry of spurious and substandard drugs and medical equipment into the government pool. A government order in this regard was issued on Tuesday.

Kannada writer passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Veteran Kannada writer and critic G.S. Siddalingaiah, 94, passed away in Bengaluru following age-related complications at a private hospital on Wednesday.

A native of Bellave in Tumakuru district, he had taught for many years and served in the Department of Collegiate Education. He authored books of creative and critical writings.

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BMTC invites Expression of Interest from buyers/bidders **for sale of used empty 210 Litres capacity Plastic barrels at Central Workshop - 01.** Interested parties can express their interest/proposal by **19.05.2025 at 17.00 hrs.** For further information Log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** In case of further assistance, contact 7760991157.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Subject Matter	Due date
2025-26/ TNPL/INS/ Renewal	Fixing of Insurer(s) for Renewal of various insurance policies for covering TNPL Properties, Employees, Interests, Liabilities etc., which are due for renewal on 27.05.2025 and arrangement of Storage-Cum-Erection insurance policy for the upcoming Tissue Paper Machine#5 Project at TNPL Unit - II. Quotes are invited from General Insurance Companies/Authorized Brokers/ Agents-licenced by IRDAI. TNPL will follow two bid system.	On or before **20.05.2025** before 11.00 a.m.

Terms & conditions and sum insured details are available in tender document which can be downloaded from **www.tnpl.com/ https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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TENDER NOTICE - CORRIGENDUM

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Tender Notice Advertisement Published on **07-05-2025 in Sakshi (Andhra Pradesh + Telangana)** and **The Hindu (All Editions) News Papers.** In this Advertisement **please read as Lr.No.Proc./FRK/KMS-24-25/2, Date: 07.05.2025 instead of 07-05-2024** and **Last date for online registration and completion of formalities for submission of online tenders is 16.05.2025 instead of 16-05-2024.** Remaing details are same.

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Last Date and time for bid Submission: **29.05.2025 ,3.00** PM
Tender Opening Date and Time: **30.05.2025 , 3.30** PM
For further details please visit: **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR / 1990 / Tender / 2025 **Superintending Engineer (Mech)**

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2025-26/136 **Date: 05.05.2025**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Indent Nos: **(1) 739 CALL-2 (2) 6302 CALL-2 (3) 3257 CALL-2 (4) 498 CALL-2**

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only.

Few conditions of the tender : (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors: **13.05.2025 upto 5.30 PM. (2)** Date of opening of Single Cover Financial bid : **15.05.2025 at 11.30 A M. (3)** Date of opening of Two Cover Technical bid: **15.05.2025 at 11.30 AM. (4)** Date of opening of Two Cover Financial bid : **17.05.2025 at 11.30 A M. (5)** Specified time period for completion of works: **Two Cover: 6 months (180 days)**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.21-05/Zenkar/2025-26

Directorate of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Puniab
Kheti Bhawan, Site No. 204 (Near Dara Studio), Phase-6, S.A.S.Nagar (Mohali)

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the Public Notice issued by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab, regarding the invitation to vendors for submission of representations for the QR Code-based Track and Trace System in the sale of pesticides in Punjab, published on 3/05/2025 the following correction is hereby made:

In the third line of the advertisement, after the phrase "all vendors" and before "can send their presentation...", the following text shall be inserted:

"Interested in providing their solutions to the department shall include in their presentation a recommended implementation approach, informed by visits to at least two pesticide manufacturers (small and large), covering their production and packaging processes. Vendors are also advised to review the detailed requirements available on the official website of the Department"

All other terms and conditions of the original advertisement shall remain unchanged.

Director,
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Punjab

2401/12/38/2023/44204

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, राजस्थान

No. :- F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2025-26/25 - 27 Date : 02/05/2025

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अधिशाषी अभियन्ता - द्वितीय
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Is city's air quality getting seriously bad?

Rising construction dust, unaddressed road dust and waste-burning have all combined to trigger a never-before fall in the city's once cherished air quality

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Pollution is spreading all across the city in Bengaluru, and the fast-declining tree cover is making it worse. FILE PHOTO

No congestion killer plan will work when a city's vehicle numbers are almost equal to its population. This is exactly where Bengaluru is trapped with its estimated 1.2 crore vehicles. But beyond the inevitable traffic jams, they have triggered an unprecedented spike in air pollution. A climate-tech start-up's latest study shows that the city's PM10 pollutant levels breached the national air quality standard for four years in a row, and it is getting even worse.

Rising construction dust, unaddressed road dust and waste-burning have all combined to trigger a never-before fall in the city's once cherished air quality. With no letup in vehicle registrations and pollution regulations poorly monitored and executed, has Bengaluru reached a point of no return? Is the city heading the Delhi way? This might seem alarmist, but the signs are too loud and clear and the complacency too evident to be ignored.

The study by the start-up, Respirer Living Sciences, noted consistently high PM10 levels recorded at the city's monitoring stations at Silk Board Junction, RVCE-Mailasandra, City Railway Station and Kasturi Nagar. Residential pockets such as BTM Layout and Hombegowda Nagar also crossed the safe annual average in the 2021-24 period. The message is clear: The pollution is spreading all across the city, and the fast-declining tree cover offers no respite.

Unswept roads

Road dust and vehicular movement complement each other in amplifying the PM10 particles. "Bengaluru's roads are bad, but even the good roads are not swept daily. In 2017, as part of a Task Force, we had recommended mechanical sweepers to keep at least roads in the CBD areas free of dust. Now, they sweep only the roads around Vidhana Soudha and Raj Bhavan," notes a veteran technical expert who was attached to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for three decades. He adds that white-topped roads generate more dust particles since the friction is higher compared to asphalted streets.

If roads are not swept daily, the dust particles are stirred up by the fast-moving vehicles. "These particles can move up to 1km vertically. Besides, motorcyclists are also exposed since the breathing height is about 1.5 metres," the expert points out. After the seven-year Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contract ended on February 28, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had faced widespread public complaints related to unclean roads, accumulated silt and blocked shoulder drains. Once the machines went idle, the Palike had tried manual clearing of roadside silt with pourakarmikas, outsourced workers and trucks. Following negotiations, the contractor who operated the machines has reportedly agreed to continue the services for another six months. However, not all machines are fit to run and the funds-starved BBMP is struggling to maintain them. Of the 25 sweeping machines, eight are truck-mounted and 17 self-propelled.

Once the machines went idle, the Corporation had tried manual clearing of roadside silt with pourakarmikas, outsourced workers and trucks. FILE PHOTO

Construction dust

Widespread dumping of construction debris on the roadsides amplifies the road dust problem. If not cleared in time, wind takes the dust all around the area. Making this even worse are lack of adequate measures to nip the pollutants at the construction site itself. While the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has barricaded its sites and uses water sprays to limit the dust, no such measures are seen in thousands of building construction areas across the city.

Scrapping vehicles older than 15 years has been a national policy to combat urban air pollution. At last count, Bengaluru had over 21 lakh two-wheelers and 7 lakh cars older than 15 years. However, private vehicles rarely show up at the registered vehicle scrapping facilities (RVSF) licensed by the state transport department. One of the RVSFs is in Vijayapura near Devanahalli on the city's outskirts, tasked with handling dated vehicles as per the Registered Vehicle Scrappage Policy of Karnataka, 2022.

Mini-mechanical sweeping machine. FILE PHOTO

Vehicular exhaust with harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds and particulate matter (PM), almost doubles as they age. FILE PHOTO

Vehicular exhaust with harmful pollutants such as Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds and particulate matter (PM), almost double as they age. These pollutants have been linked to multiple respiratory issues, eye irritation and cardiovascular problems. PM2.5 are so tiny that they could penetrate lungs, triggering serious health issues.

No safe threshold

The Respirer study had used the national air quality standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre for PM10 as the base. But, as a Greenpeace India assessment 'Spare the Air-2' noted in 2024 September,

"The existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pivotal pollutants are considerably less stringent than the WHO's guidelines." This study too had flagged rising air pollution concerns in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Mysuru.

Citing a 2024 Lancet report, the study had reiterated that short-term exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a heightened risk of mortality in India, even at levels well below the Indian standards. "This underscores the troubling reality that there may be no safe threshold for air pollution exposure," the study report said.

Does Bengaluru have enough air quality monitoring stations relative to its size? While the city's size, population density, local land use and industrial activities determine the number, a general guideline is one station for an area with 2 km radius. This works to about 15sqkm. But more stations would be required in areas with higher pollution sources. Currently, the city has 15 stations maintained by KSPCB and three by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Air quality sensors

To measure air quality more accurately and at high spatial resolution, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) had recommended a mix of static and non-conventional, less expensive, short-term stationary and mobile sensors. The Centre undertook a mobile monitoring campaign covering about 10% of roads in the city to measure on-road mass concentrations of PM2.5, black carbon and number concentrations of ultrafine particles (UFPs).

Based on the mobile measurements, it was found that on-road air pollution levels (for all three pollutants) were highest on major roads, followed by arterial and residential roads. The findings were summarized this way by CSTEP: "The spatial gradient in PM2.5 (across various road types) was shallower compared to that of BC and UFPs. The spatial representativeness of pollution maps increased when the number of drives on a route increased. On-road pollutant levels were higher than ambient pollution levels by a factor of 2 to 10. Ambient PM2.5 levels (and their spatial variability) were higher in winter compared to summer. Daily mean ambient PM2.5 levels were within Indian regulatory standards."

A book that captures the soul of Bengaluru's bus commutes

Compiled by a team of writers and volunteers, it showcases vignettes of connection and community experienced aboard the city's public buses

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A new bilingual (Kannada and English) book released on Monday, *Bengalurina Bussina Kathegalu (Bengaluru's Bus Stories)*, captures heartfelt, real-life moments from the city's Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses – turning everyday commutes into compelling narratives.

Compiled by a team of writers and volunteers, the book showcases vignettes of connection and community experienced aboard the city's public buses. The book is a collaborative effort by researchers from Utrecht University, The Netherlands, the EQUIMOB project, the Institute for Social and Economic Change, the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), and the non-profit organisation Samvada.

Whether it is a conductor offering emotional support or strangers forming unexpected friendships, the stories paint a vivid picture of how BMTC buses have quietly shaped the social fabric of the city. The initiative also aims to shift public perception and celebrating bus travel as a space of possibility rather than inconvenience.

Many collaborations

Prajwal Nagesh, a researcher who worked on the compilation of the book, said that there is no single author for the book and it features contributions of various collaborators. "Though every one of us has travelled in BMTC buses and have a lot of memories associated with it, it is not being recorded. The book has stories associated with the bus by people of Bengaluru," he added. The book has 23 stories grouped into seven different themes.

The event opened with volunteer Mamatha Gamana sharing her own memories of riding the bus, after which others in the audience began recounting their own journeys.

In one of the stories in the book, 55-year-old Paramesh narrates his childhood memory of the double decker bus. "For some 30-35 years, I have been using BMTC buses. If there was ever a real Bengaluru, it was back then when I sat in a BMTC bus window seat. Those (double-decker) buses were like two buses stacked on top of each other. We used to feel scared of falling while getting on those buses... The double-decker buses had two conductors. On the terrace, all the youngsters would sit, while women and older people would sit below," he said.

Whether it is a conductor offering emotional support or strangers forming unexpected friendships, the stories paint a vivid picture of how BMTC buses have quietly shaped the social fabric of the city.

At the launch of the book Bengalurina Bussina Kathegalu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ramesh shared how a conductor convinced him to approve a match for his sister. "My sister was going to college and she travelled to college by bus. She fell in love with a guy travelling on the same bus but studying in a different college. Should you even ask how it was 10-20 years back? A guy and a girl could never travel together. When she came home, we all spoke to her patiently. She did not admit it. One day, I closed my shop and without her knowing, I followed her. In a fit of anger, I slapped my sister. By then, the bus conductor came and asked, 'Who are you, pa? Why are you hitting the girl?' Then I told him what she had done. He said, 'You have learnt about this only yesterday. We have seen them for many days. We have been seeing them for 6-7 months. They have not committed any unpardonable sin. First, take them home, sit patiently and talk to the elders.' That day, if the conductor had not told me to take them home and discuss with elders, I would have fought with my sister and taken her away. I wanted to invite the conductor to my sister's wedding, but we could not," he said.

The e-book is available on Equimob's website and Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike's blog.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1975

Karnataka Assembly Ratifies Sikkim Bill

Bangalore, May 7: The Karnataka Assembly, at its special sitting today, unanimously ratified the Constitutional amendment which sought to make Sikkim a State in the Union of India.

The ratification was made through an official resolution. During the two-hour discussion on the Constitution (38th Amendment) Bill, 1975, as passed by Parliament, the members from all sides welcomed the Bill. Moving the resolution, the Industries and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. S.M. Krishna, described it as historic one. The resolution which sought to ratify the Constitution (Amendment) Bill would put an end to the institution of Chogyal in Sikkim and reflect the aspiration of the People of Sikkim to have a democratic rule.

ITI Completes Work in Jordan on Schedule

Bangalore, May 7: The State-owned Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Bangalore has successfully completed the supplies and installation of two major telecommunication equipment in Jordan.

The ITI has supplied and installed a 1,000-line automatic exchange at Salt town, the erstwhile capital city of Jordan. This prestigious job worth about Rs. 20 lakhs was completed on schedule in March 1975. The ITI had also just now completed the installation of 11 additional positions for the extension of the International Manual Centre in Amman which handles all overseas calls from and to Jordan

CITYBEATS

Just for laughs

MAY 10
Comedian Azeem Banatwalla will be performing in the city this weekend. Azeem is known for turning everyday chaos into clever comedy gold, his smart storytelling and a standout special (*Cometh the Hour*). Azeem has taken his razor-wit to international festivals such as Melbourne and Edinburgh.
Tickets available on BookMyShow. At Fan Park, Phoenix Mall of Asia, 7pm onwards.

The write way

MAY 9
A workshop – *The Art of Erotica - Writing with Sensuality and Style* will be conducted by Bhushan Korgaonkar. Here, one can learn to navigate the fine line between titillating and tacky, and discover how to craft compelling erotic content, as well as explore various aspects of sexuality and sensuality.
For those aged 18 and above. Tickets on BookMyShow. At Atta Galatta, 5.30pm onwards.

Flavoured in

ONGOING
Naturals has brought back the flavour that signals its summer signature, kala jamun ice cream. Said to be made using real jamuns that have been blended with milk and sugar, this chilled treat is a purple-hued delight that hold citrus notes in every mouthful. This limited edition flavour was brought back on May 2 and will be available for three months.
Across pan-India Naturals Outlets

GIG GUIDE

Ragas, grindcore, and a touch of jazz set the mood for a weekend in the city

Bet on the blues

Anurag Tagat

Trak
May 11, 6 pm onwards
The Blue Room, Jayanagar
Entry: ₹750, via linktr.ee/theblueroom.blr

The Blue Room in Jayanagar hosts yet another intimate jazz gig this week, offering their stage to the quartet known as TRAK. Comprising Aman Mahajan on keys, Dhani Muniz on bass, Navaneeth Krishnan on drums and Raul Mattia on a second drum kit, the band says they intend to "simultaneously defy expectations as well as set new ones for bands that follow in this experimental stream."

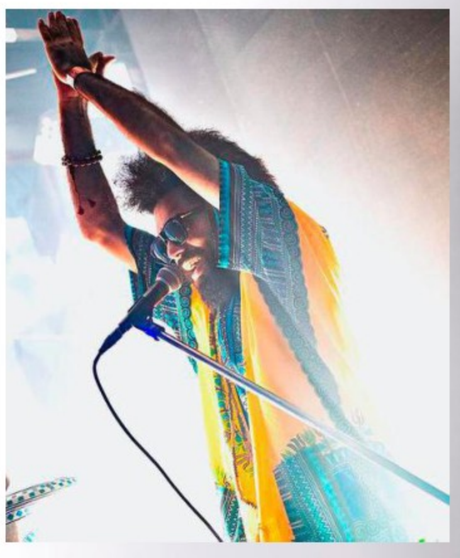
An event description says TRAK is "part of a new breed of jazz that embraces tradition precisely when it feels like it, never out of 'respect' or a longing for a different time." It adds, "With TRAK, jazz returns to its original purpose of creating for the individual listener a feeling of weightlessness, a sense of being removed from time altogether. There are no whiskey sours or Brooks Brothers suits here, only the same sense of shared exploration and breakneck momentum that powered the 'Jazz Age'."

Influences range from jungle rhythms and "angular harmonies" as well as the works of Miles Davis, Joni Mitchell, Weather Report and Carla Bley. The description concludes, "Their music is a compulsive weaving of old and new, wrapped in an aggressive yet accessible package."

Arinjoy Trio
May 9 and 10, 9:30 pm onwards
Windmills, Whitefield
Entry: ₹2000 (seating), ₹750 (standing), via windmills-india.com

This weekend at Windmills, the blues are in town courtesy Mumbai/Kolkata act The Arinjoy Trio. Comprising vocalist-guitarist Arinjoy Sarkar, drummer Sounak Roy and bassist Aakash Ganguly, the band has previously released EPs such as *Talkin' That Talk* in 2023 and their self-titled debut album in 2019.

A description for the event hails them as "one of the most exciting blues acts to emerge from the Indian music scene." It adds, "Known for their high-energy live performances, the trio brings together a wide range of blues styles – from Chicago blues and blues rock to R&B – delivered with authenticity and passion. With growing acclaim from audiences and artistes alike, the Arinjoy Trio have become one of India's most sought-after blues bands."



Damru
May 11, 8 pmonwards
Gylt, Hennur
Entry:₹499, via Skillboxes.com

Event organisers Astro Lab Entertainments and D Eventors are bringing down New Delhi-origin psytrance artist Damru to Gylt this weekend. The DJ-producer, vocalist and percussionist is a live performer who goes beyond DJ decks for his shows, describing his music as "ragatrance" that "seamlessly blends the peace and serenity of Indian classical music with the sheer power of psytrance." The organisers hail the event as a "mystical voyage through sound and spirit!"

Phantom Pulse
May 11, 6:30 pmonwards
By Chance,Brigade Road
Entry:₹599 via Skillboxes.com, plus ₹500 cover charge at the door

The debut edition of gig series Phantom Pulse aims to showcase sounds from the country's underground scene. To that end, they have looped in local grindcore favourites XrepeatX, Ladakh-origin noise, power electronics and death industrial artist Ruhail Qaisar and the debut performance of city-based artist Essenar Zero, also a noise, industrial and power electronics act founded by synth artist Navnit Belur from ambient/drone project Megadrone.

XrepeatX say in a collective statement that Phantom Pulse is going to be special for them, performing on the back of releasing their four-track demo *Casual Violence*. "We'll be playing the demo in full, plus a few new tracks, and some material from our last full length. Our set will be short but intense – we've curated it to hit hard from start to finish. Expect it to be tight, loud, and raw – definitely bring your earplugs."

About his intentions with Essenar Zero, Navnit says, "Both sonically and visually, it delves into existential themes – interrogating the future of human values and questioning whether the machines we've created can carry forward our essence long after we're gone." Ruhail for his part, says, "I am playing some new material that I have been working on since my residency in Austria, developing it over the winter in -30°C Ladakh."

Tabling out Existentialism

Now you see me, now you don't Scenes from *Mezok* by Jyoti Dogra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

Bengaluru-based Linear Festivals and the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA) is celebrating their collaboration with *Mezok*, a play. Not only will this show be *Mezok*'s premiere in the city, but it is also the inaugural show of the LinearX PCPA performances.

Mezok is a multi-narrative performance that unveils the complexities of human nature. According to Jyoti Dogra, playwright and director, "Mezok is a made up name, of a made up mountain, a mountain that sees you before you see it."

Mumbai-based Jyoti Dogra who has 20 years of solo and original work to her credit, says *Mezok* is the first time she is writing, directing and producing an ensemble piece. Talking about the ideation and conceptualisation of this work, she says, "It began with explorations around a table, and from there we began building a world suspended between the real and the abstract."

"Over the years I've been working with various pieces of furniture and somehow, I was fascinated by the table. It is three dimensional, but when you look at it vertically, it transforms into something different as opposed to when one accesses it from underneath. The kind of spaces a table opens up, just in terms of our presence inside it fascinated me, and I decided to work on this idea."

Jyoti and a few like-minded others developed the idea further at Nirdigantha, the art education centre at Shettihalli, over a period of two months.

"We started with a table and no plans, but within the first 20 days, ideas began to emerge – of a mountain, offices, dining tables and bureaucracy. Soon, the table stopped being a table – it became a bar, a home, a plough, a field, and more. Our material began to develop and I started to structure it; that is how the piece came about."

"An upside down table is a space that is different from the one that is created when you stand up on it. You are in a different place altogether, and not just physically," she adds.

Though this weekend will see *Mezok* debut in Bengaluru, it has already completed 20 shows after opening In Bombay and has been staged in Bareilly, Hyderabad and Delhi.

As many as six regional languages can be heard in *Mezok* – Kannada, Hindi, Punjabi, Sirmauri (a Pahari dialect from Himachal), Garhwali from Uttarakhand, and Ladakhi, apart from English – courtesy actors from Ladakh, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai.

"From the beginning, I urged actors to improvise in their mother tongue, even though the rest of us would not understand. Language played an important role in the way their bodies responded to the table and the spaces within it," says Jyoti.

Jyoti elaborates on how a mother tongue causes a shift in the way a person is present in their bodies and how those changes play out when they relate to other people. "While most of these actors now live and work in urban communities, the process was a journey back to their roots and childhood and where their families are from."

"Though the table starts off as an object you can identify with, it has a contextual use and changing its position opens up spaces which changes how you feel within your own body," she says, adding that, "the table is not a prop, but is one of the actors, playing many roles in *Mezok*."

Linear Festivals was founded by Vishruti Bindal and Bharavi in September 2024, with the intent of "pushing boundaries and expanding possibilities in the performing arts".

Mezok is Linear's first event in Bengaluru where all their events are held at venues along metro stations to make them accessible for all.

Mezok *by Linear Festivals will be performed at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts on May 10, at 7pm. Tickets available on BookMyShow.*

Wild and free

Bright and beautiful Artist Badrunissa Irfan and an art work from Whimsical Worlds. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Diya Rose Denny

Whimsical Worlds, Badrunnisa Irfan's latest series of paintings, is currently on display in the city. The collection of about 31 acrylic works of art include depictions of enchanted woods, wildlife, and landscapes.

Speaking about her journey as a self-taught artist, Badrunnisa says, "I used to only draw roses at one time, then I realised I could reproduce images and began practising with online images." Now, her works are not just of flowers, but are detailed and colourful images of flora and fauna, and her favourite animal – the horse. She usually sits in her garden and spends hours on her works which are inspired by nature.

Badrunnisa favours old brushstrokes and vibrant colours and one can see blue-orange fish, bright green landscapes, dark red mushrooms, light brown squirrels on trees, yellow birds, white houses by the sea and more, on her canvases.

She says, "I prefer to put colours into my paintings. I want people to see these paintings and feel happy because that is what life is all about. So many people have lost the colour in their lives."

Badrunnisa does not consider herself an artist, saying, "I started painting only because my daughter came up to me one day and told me to stop cooking and enjoy some form of art. All my works are amateurish, but I am following my passion and the child in me comes out on canvas."

This collection includes portraits as well and are on display at the gallery for display and sale. Some of the most colourful ones include The Enchanted Path, Blooming Meadowside, Picturesque, Curious and Mischievous, Perched High in the Tree and Graceful, Fluttering Wings. "All proceeds from this exhibition go to charity," she adds.

Some of her previous art exhibitions were titled Freedom of the Soul, Thousand Shades of Passion, Daring to Dream and Ethereal Expressions. Apart from painting collections, Badrunnisa has authored a cookbook titled, *Duniya-e-Ziyafat*.

Whimsical Worlds by Badrunnisa Irfan will be on display at Sublime Galleria, UB City, till June 2. Entry fee ₹50, from 11am-8pm. For more details, call 8971904106

CMs, victims' kin laud action against Pak.

Chief Ministers, Opposition leaders express solidarity with armed forces; families of April 22 Pahalgam terror attack victims call strikes befitting; the retaliatory response named Operation Sindoor targeted camps and launch pads of terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Leaders across the political aisle in South India have expressed solidarity with Operation Sindoor, targeting extremist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to the massacre of Indian tourists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir last month.

Families of the victims in the Pahalgam terror attack also lauded the Indian Army's retaliatory response. "I am happy to see that the nation is with us," said J. Nagamani, whose husband J.S. Chandramouli was among the 26 tourists who were killed by the terrorists at Baisaran in Pahalgam on April 22.

B. Nageswara Rao, brother-in-law of Chandramouli, said, "We are happy that action has been taken. They [terrorists] should realise that they have to pay a price for their inhuman acts."

'Pursue diplomacy too'

In a post on social media, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote, "Kerala stands in solidarity with the Union government and our defence forces in their actions against terrorism. In addition to this, the Union government must pursue diplomatic efforts to bring the Pahalgam culprits to justice and ensure no terror camps operate from Pakistan..."

Ground support: Citizens in Bengaluru hold placards as they hail Operation Sindoor by the armed forces on Wednesday. PTI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin also voiced his support for Operation Sindoor through a social media post.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, several Ministers, and leaders of opposition parties also hailed the Indian Army. In his post on X, Mr. Naidu, tagging the Indian Army's message, said "Jai Hind."

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also appreciated the precision strikes.

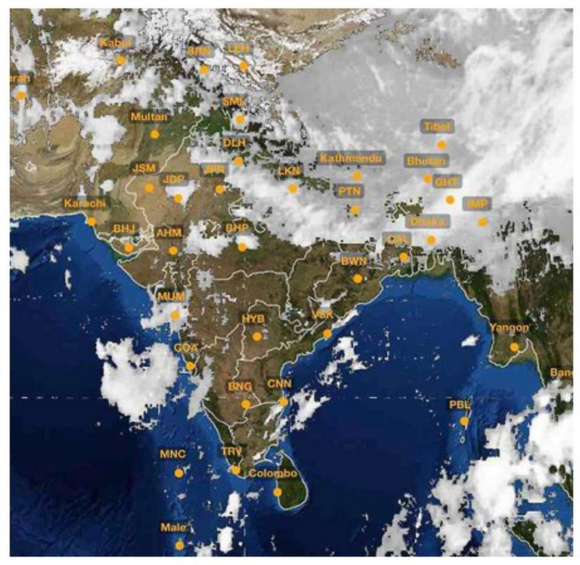
"While none can compensate us for the loss, I feel proud of our men in uniform who braved adversities and attacked the terrorist hideouts. The news came as a comforting moment, since what the terrorists did were acts of cowardice. I am praying for more strength for the armed forces," said Arathy Sarath, daughter of Kerala native N. Ramachandran, who died in Pahalgam.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed Ministers, officials and employees to be available for duty any time. He ordered cancellation of leaves of employees on emergency duties and instructed those who are planning foreign tours to drop them. "A strong message that we are with the national armed forces should be conveyed. There is no scope for politics or political parties at this crucial juncture," he said.

(With inputs from State Bureaus)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Konkan & Goa, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	34.7	23.7	Kozhikode	—	37.0	28.5
Ahmedabad	12.4	26.9	21.2	Kurnool	2	40.0	25.1
Aizawl	25	31.9	17.6	Lucknow	—	39.4	24.6
Allahabad	—	40.2	26.0	Madurai	5	37.2	23.6
Bengaluru	—	33.2	23.6	Mangaluru	—	34.9	27.4
Bhopal	—	31.4	19.2	Mumbai	2	33.8	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.2	24.5	Mysuru	—	34.2	20.2
Chandigarh	—	34.2	24.1	New Delhi	—	36.5	24.8
Chennai	2	36.2	25.1	Patna	—	35.5	24.6
Coimbatore	9	35.2	24.0	Port Blair	—	32.5	25.7
Dehradun	36.3	32.1	17.9	Puducherry	—	33.4	23.2
Gangtok	38	19.9	14.2	Pune	—	36.5	23.8
Goa	—	36.0	28.0	Raipur	—	39.0	25.7
Guwahati	3	33.6	21.6	Ranchi	—	36.0	21.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	21.0	Shillong	6	23.4	14.4
Hyderabad	2	37.3	22.8	Shimla	1	24.4	16.6
Imphal	—	31.3	23.0	Srinagar	—	28.3	15.9
Jaipur	—	35.0	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.3	27.1
Kochi	—	32.8	26.2	Tiruchi	17	37.9	23.4
Kohima	13	32.0	15.5	Vijayawada	0.4	37.0	25.4
Kolkata	—	36.4	26.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.7	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.93	33	33	36	
Bengaluru	6	.17	35	91	106	
Chennai	.15	.22	52	60	50	
Delhi	.20	103	67	135	207	
Hyderabad	7	.84	30	60	66	
Kolkata	.11	.44	22	85	92	
Lucknow	7	.61	24	125	181	
Mumbai	2	.43	19	41	104	
Pune	—	.81	36	45	68	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.33	35	48	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 180 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

42 injured after jumbo runs amok at Thrissur Pooram

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

As many as 42 people were injured when an elephant went on a rampage during the Thrissur Pooram celebrations in Kerala on Wednesday. The incident occurred around 2.15 a.m. at the Pooram venue where hundreds had gathered to witness the fireworks.

The elephant, Uttoly Raman, suddenly turned aggressive and ran amok through the Swaraj Round. Panic erupted as people scrambled for safety. The elephant squad quickly intervened and managed to bring the elephant under control.

Festive scene: The kudamattam ceremony of Thiruvambadi wing during the Pakal Pooram on Wednesday. K.K.NAJEEB

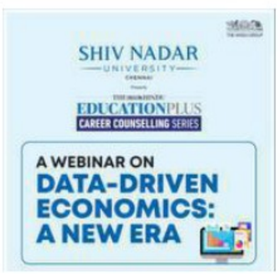
The injured were rushed to the Thrissur District Hospital. Five people requiring advanced care were shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital. Revenue Minister K. Rajan, who was present at the venue, personally led the rescue operations.

Webinar offers insights on 'data-driven economics'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar titled "Data-Driven Economics: A New Era", jointly presented by Shiv Nadar University, Chennai and *The Hindu* Education Plus, will be held on Friday at 5:30 p.m., as part of the Career Counselling series.

The panellists at the session includes Pushpa Trivedi, Senior Professor & Head, Department of Economics, School of Science and Humanities, Shiv Nadar University Chennai, who will speak on the scope of economics, the integration of data science in economics, as well as career opportunities and placements. Soumyadip Roy, Associate Professor and In-Charge Director, UNext Manipal Academy of BFSI, Bengaluru, will discuss industry-relevant skills and alternative career paths in economics.



Panellists will speak on the integration of data science in economics, career opportunities and placements, relevant skills, and alternative career paths

The webinar will be moderated by Hiba Mariam. To participate in the webinar, visit https://newsth.live/SNUEDE or scan the QR code.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-54.
No.EE(MLM)/TN/Kppp/01/2025-26 Date: 07.05.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP invites **Item Rate** Tenders from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations for the work mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	Providing temporary Monsoon Control Room for Mathikere Sub Division for the year 2025-26 during rainy season in Ward No.54, (Old-36), Mathikere, 55 (Old-45), Malleshwaram & 56 (Old-35), Aramanenagar. **Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 15.00, EMD in ₹ : 37,500/-. (Others).**
2.	Establishment of Temporary Monsoon Control Room for Malleshwaram Sub Division for the year 2025-26 during rainy season in Ward No.57 (64), Rajmahal Guttahalli, 58(65) Kadu Malleshwara 59(66), Subramanyanagar & 60(76) Gayathringar. **Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹ : 50,000/-. (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **20.05.2025 up to 4:00 p.m. (2)** Date of Opening of Proposals is **22.05.2025 after 4:00 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP.

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPT
Tumkur Dist, Tumkur Ph No: 0816-2278132
E-mail:tumkur.dswo@gmail.com
No:JD:SWD:TMK:E-PROCURMENT: CR/2024-25 DATE:25.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

FOR SUPPLY OF FOOD MATERIALS,VEGETABLES AND OTHER ITEMS TO PRE-METRIC, POST METRIC HOSTELS AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS COMING UNDER SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, TUMAKURU District FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Joint Director, Social Welfare, Department TUMAKURU Dist hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers, Non-governmental organizations who are registered under law, co-operative societies who are registered under Society Act to Supply food materials for all institutions spread over TUMAKURU District as described in the schedule of requirements.

1	Tender Reference No and date	**JD:SWD:TMK: E-PROCURMENT: CR/2024-25 DATE:25.04.2025**
2	Amount put to Tender	**Rs. 25,49,05,000/-**
3	Last date & Time for submission of Tender	**Date:27.05.2025**
4	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid	**As per E-Portal**
5	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	**As per E-Portal**
6	EMD Amount	**As per E-Portal**
7	Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication	**Office Of Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, Near DC Office, Tumakuru**

Interested, eligible & Registered in e-procurement portal bidders can download the bid documents by visiting the web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (S. Krishnappa)
Joint Director
Social Welfare Dept, TUMAKURU
Dist, TUMAKURU

DIPR/TUM/RO-14/25-26/Oysters

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Loka Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
*****

Corrigendum Notice

File No. PT1-IPR-IMU-0003-2024_7837_/I&PR, dated: 07/05/2025

A few modifications are incorporated in the RFP No-6856 Dt-17/04/2025 published by I&PR Department on Dt.-18/04/2025 in The Samaj, The Sambad, The Times of India and The Hindu.

a. The **last date for receipt of sealed proposals** is dt.**09.05.2025 by 05.00 P.M.** instead of the previously notified date i.e. 08.05.2025.

The intending bidders may visit **https://inpr.odisha.gov.in** for the other details at **Annexure-A.**

Sd/- Director, I&PR
Z- OIPR-15001/11/0642/2526

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR - 751002.
Tel - MD 0674-2340573, E-mail- mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No. OSSC/ Mktg (Hort)-30/2025
Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Cardamom Seedling for Kharif-2025

OSSC Ltd. invites Short e-Tender only from registered Nursery Owner (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis **for Procurement of Cardamom Seedling for Kharif-2025** in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	Purchase of Cardamom Seedling for Kharif-2025.
No of work	One
Availability of bid documents in portal	15.00 hours on dt.09.05.2025 to 17.00hrs of dt.19.05.2025
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hrs of dt.19.05.2025
Date and time opening of Bid	10.30 hrs of dt.20.05.2025

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.
CAD-333 OIPR-01045/11/0065/2526

Government of Karnataka.
(Public Works, Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Bidar
NO: EE/PWD//Dvn/Bdr/JE-5/2025-26/ 267 Date: 05-05-2025

:: NOTICE ::

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION FOR " Providing and Supplying of Smart class, Desktop, Projector, Green & Soft Board, Digital library and Solar Panel to Govt. HPS & HS RMSA Schools of Bhalki, Aurad, Bidar and Humnabad "

Sealed quotations are invited from the suppliers " **Providing and Supplying of Smart class, Desktop, Projector, Green & Soft Board, Digital library and Solar Panel to Govt. HPS & HS RMSA Schools of Bhalki, Aurad, Bidar and Humnabad " as given herein.**

1) Sealed quotation duly super scribed with description of " **Providing and Supplying of Smart class, Desktop, Projector, Green & Soft Board, Digital library and Solar Panel to Govt. HPS & HS RMSA Schools of Bhalki, Aurad, Bidar and Humnabad "** job work on the cover, should reach this office, on or before Date : 13.05.2025 (1.30 PM) either by post or personally handed over. 2) The rates should be inclusive of all charges and free delivery up to Divisional/Sub-Divisional stores work spot of PWD Division, Bidar. 3) The make and detailed specification of testing job work should be clearly mentioned in the quotation as prescribed in schedule or List enclosed. 4) Preference will be given for producers, Reputed Engineering Firms and Agencies . 5) The authority to accept or reject a part of whole Lists rests with the under signed. 6) Quotations received after the expiry of due date are liable for rejection. 7) Any dispute between the department and the Quotationers shall be settled as per department rules any. 8) The successor Agency/Firms willing to quote the rates liable to Collect the details from this office. 9) For any more information may please be obtained from under signed on or before last date and time. 10) The above notice is only for inviting the quoatations to prepare detailed estimate.

Executive Engineer,
PWD Divn. Bidar.
DIPR/Bidar/32/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/5054 SCP-TSP/ಟಿ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ–1/2025–26/243 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.05.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: Package No. YDG-SRP-01-5054-SCP-TSP 2024–25 ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೈಲಕುಂಟಿ, ಕಡದರಾಳ, ಹುಲ್ಲಿಕೇರಾ ದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುಟ್ಟೇರದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 84.06 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 07.05.2025 ರಿಂದ 15.05.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**15.05.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 17.05.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 19.05.2025 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/44/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಎ/2025–26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
NO: BDA /EE/DSKL/TEND/ LAKES/48/2025-26 DATED:07.05.2025

CORRIGENDUM-01 DTD: 07-05-2025

Sub:- Corrigendum to Short term Tender Notification No:- 01/2025-26 Dated: 22.04.2025
Ref:-1.This office Tender Notification No:BDA/EE/DSKL/TEND/WORK/16/2025-26, 22.04.2025
Following modifications are effected in the above Invitation for Bids:-

Name of Work	Description	Already Notified as	Modified as
Development of Ramagondanahalli lake	CALANDER OF EVENTS		
Development of Veerasagara lake			
Comprehensive development and restoration of Byalakere-1			
Comprehensive development and restoration of Byalakere-2	Availability of tender documents in e-Procurement Portal	24.04.2025 onwards	09.05.2025 onwards
Comprehensive development and restoration of Byalakere-3	Last date of Receipt of queries	08.05.2025 up to 13.00 hrs	12.05.2025 up to 13.00 hrs
Comprehensive development and restoration of Mediagrahara lake	Date of Pre bid meeting	28.04.2025 up to 17.00 hrs	13.05.2025 up to 17.00 hrs
Comprehensive development and restoration of Guniagrahara lake	Last date of submission of tenders	08.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs	15.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs
Comprehensive development and restoration of Ganigarahalli lake	Date of Opening technical bid	09.05.2025 up to 16.15 hrs	16.05.2025 up to 16.15 hrs
Comprehensive development and restoration of Kalathammanahalli lake	Date of opening of financial bid	will be intimated to qualified tenders	will be intimated to qualified tenders
Improvements to Chikkabanavara lake			

Other details remain unchanged. For any other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, DSKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru

Strokes of justice

India must be prepared for escalatory action by Pakistan

India carried out precision military strikes across nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir early on Wednesday. Targets included Bahawalpur, the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Muridke, a nerve centre of the Lashkar-e-Taiba – terrorist outfits bred by Pakistan to target India. India said the strikes were to destroy the camps used to train terrorists and to "pre-empt as well as deter" more such cross-border attacks following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 in which 26 people were killed by terrorists who identified the targets by their religion. India's military strikes were "measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible", the government said. In 2019, India had carried out surgical strikes in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in north Pakistan, after the Pulwama terrorist attack. The response this time has been sharper and more resolute. Muridke and Bahawalpur are in Punjab, the heartland of Pakistan's ruling elite, that has been playing the double game on terrorism. Pakistan has, for decades, used terrorism as a low-cost instrument of war against India, under an umbrella of nuclear blackmail. India has been trying to figure out an appropriate response to this. With Balakot, and now Operation Sindoor, the point is clear – India can have an overt military response in the event of a terrorist attack against it, apart from economic and diplomatic measures. India has also underscored the point that there were no civilian, economic or military targets on Wednesday.

Overt military action in response to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism marks a change in India's strategy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. How this will change Pakistan's behaviour remains uncertain. The strikes destroyed terrorist bases, but that setback may not be long term, considering the perennial supply of radicalised youths in Pakistan. Pakistan has not only raised terrorists who target India but also harboured Osama bin Laden, the most wanted terrorist for the West, even while it was claiming to be an ally in the war on terror. Pakistan's character will have to change if it is to behave differently. India has reached out to other countries, and world powers must use their considerable leverage to coerce Pakistan to act responsibly. The retaliatory strikes apart, the investigation into Pahalgam should continue in full vigour and be taken to its logical conclusion. India should also watch out for escalatory moves by Pakistan and be prepared to respond militarily and diplomatically. The Centre on Wednesday pointed out that the terrorists wanted to disturb normalcy in Kashmir and create communal rift in the country. All political parties have supported the military operation. While strengthening the domestic political consensus on the issue, the Centre should also ensure that elements who try to create communal strife and play into the hands of Pakistan are restrained. Any missteps will carry a great risk.

A step up

As India climbs up HDI rankings, rising inequality poses challenges

Amid a disturbing rate of deceleration in global development and a growing divide between the rich and the poor, India has inched up on the Human Development Index. In the 2025 Human Development Report, 'A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI', released on Tuesday, India ranks 130 out of 193 countries, from 133 in 2022. It registered an HDI value increase to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022. Coming on the back of two debilitating pandemic years, it can be said that India's recovery has been strong in the three fields HDI measures: "a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living". India's life expectancy, at 72 years in 2023, is the highest level it has reached since the inception of the index in 1990 (58.6 years). Children, the report noted, are expected to stay in school for 13 years on average, up from 8.2 years in 1990; and Gross National Income per capita has risen from $2,167.22 in 1990 to $9046.76 in 2023. It gave a shout out to programmes such as MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, the National Rural Health Mission and other initiatives for the improved status, but also sounded a word of caution about rising inequality, particularly significant income and gender disparities.

The female labour participation rate may have risen to 41.7% in 2023-24, as the Economic Survey of 2024-25 pointed out, but a stronger ecosystem needs to be built to ensure women join the workforce and are able to retain their jobs. There is a lag in political representation of women as well with no indication yet when the constitutional amendments reserving one-third of legislative seats for women will come into force. Underprivileged girls and boys still struggle to get an education, and until this anomaly is corrected, India's HDI value will not rise. Though the report highlights that 13.5 crore (of India's population of 144 crore) "escaped multidimensional poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21, income and gender inequalities have pulled down India's HDI by 30.7%, "one of the highest losses in the region." The thrust of the HDR this year was on AI and how human beings may benefit from it on development parameters. India, it said, has been able to retain 20% of AI researchers, up from nearly zero in 2019. Going forward, India must leverage AI to deliver on many fronts from agriculture to health care, education to public service delivery. But it is imperative that proper policy and safeguards are in place to thwart the risk that AI may deepen existing inequalities.

The building blocks of an India-U.S. energy future

Arunabha Ghosh

is the CEO of Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

United States Vice-President J.D. Vance recently highlighted the U.S.'s willingness to cooperate with India more closely on energy and defence. India's foreign policy establishment outlined the need for cooperation on energy, defence, technology and the mobility of people. The developments may have been news, but the issues are not new. These topics have increasingly defined India-U.S. relations over the years despite changes in administration, but with some change in emphasis. There is an opportunity now for renewed investment in them.

India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix. Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi.

A critical minerals compact

The energy transition will unfold not only via electrons but also with elements. China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade. On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes. The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defence equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains.

In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains. Three principles must now guide India-US cooperation on critical minerals.

First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy – and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritises long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange.

Second, policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels. They must establish guarantees of supply and frameworks for cooperation. Demand creation, not supply coercion, must drive this relationship. An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

Beyond the bilateral relationship, the Quad (including Japan and Australia) can be a capability multiplier. This includes collaboration on minerals processing technology. Further, data transparency and traceability of these minerals are crucial. For this, establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange – a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals. This can especially help vulnerable industries such as electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors. India and the U.S. should also co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard for critical minerals, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport.

> Nuclear energy and critical minerals can be the bedrock of a deepening energy and technology partnership

Moreover, India and the U.S. should build joint strategic stockpiles of key minerals to safeguard supply chains against geopolitical or trade disruptions, leveraging existing storage infrastructure in both countries (such as India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves or the US National Defense Stockpile) for cost-effective deployment.

India has made early moves – becoming the first non-G-7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership – and it will host the Quad summit later this year. It is an opportunity to formalise these specific approaches. The Quad countries are also exploring joint engagement with mineral-rich nations.

Third, patience will be key. While a battery plant may take two years to build, exploration of mines and building processing facilities take between 12 to 16 years. A durable India-U.S. critical minerals partnership must be structured with a 20-year horizon and interim targets, consistent with the initial goals of India's own Critical Minerals Mission. To realise these ambitions, India and the U.S. must also invest in the 'plumbing' of the energy partnership: data-sharing protocols, investment tracking, workforce development, and innovation corridors under platforms such as the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

Nuclear energy as next frontier of linkages

As India's electricity demand surges, we need a reliable source that complements the intermittency of solar and wind to build a stable, secure grid. Even as battery costs have fallen dramatically, nuclear power offers another firm, low-carbon source essential to achieving India's net-zero goals.

India has an ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Converting this into action will need a shift in momentum. Currently, nuclear energy contributes just over 8 GW, or about 2% of India's installed capacity. To meet the 2047 target, India must commission approximately 5GW-6 GW annually from the early 2030s. Studies by institutions, including the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), suggest that achieving net zero by 2070 could require nuclear capacity exceeding 200 GW under certain scenarios.

To realise this vision, India must implement three pivotal reforms. First, shorten deployment timelines to ensure scale. Reducing the build time of nuclear projects from, say, nine to six years could cut the levelised cost of electricity by 8%. This calls for standardised designs, faster approvals, and skilled project delivery.

Second, enable private sector participation. That means having credible offtakers to reduce risks, structure competitive bids, and offer long-term purchase commitments. Small Modular Reactors, with their lower capex and flexibility and lower land requirement, become bankable only when private capital has clear incentives and predictable returns. Applications include the use of nuclear energy for green steel or to service rapidly rising demand for Artificial Intelligence. The overall capital requirement for 100 GW of nuclear power is enormous: up to $180 billion by 2047. The exposure of domestic banks and non-banking financial companies to the power sector is approximately $200 billion. We must rewire our financial system to support this transition. The growth of nuclear as a viable source of energy and international cooperation rests on assurances of clear policies and offtake and payment guarantees, collaboration with global firms for tech transfer and co-creation, and rules and standards for waste management.

Issue of safety

Third, amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to enable private investments in nuclear power plants. India's indigenous reactor designs can be modularised. The recent approval for Holtec International to transfer SMR technology to Indian companies, including Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers, is an example of the potential of India-U.S. collaboration in this direction. However, India should always prioritise nuclear safety by adopting advanced waste handling and decommissioning technologies, especially as it could lead the manufacturing of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). With smaller emergency zones and air-cooling capability, SMRs suit water-scarce regions but demand robust, centralised waste management and repurposing strategies from the start.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook report (April 2025) shows concerning levels of global uncertainty amid trade and tariff tensions. For India's energy security and sustainable economic development, bilateral relations between India and the U.S. must offer greater assurance in strategic and shared interests. India's continued growth story and the U.S.'s technological prowess and capital are mutually complementary. A resilient energy future needs a long-term vision, not just the pursuit of short-term wins, a road map, and a resilient architecture of cooperation.

The views expressed are personal

Pakistan, Bangladesh and core identity questions

Vinay Kaura

is Assistant Professor in the Department of International Affairs and Security Studies at Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Rajasthan; and Non-Resident Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

Pakistan reveals a tumultuous confluence of unresolved identity, ideological rigidity, persistent reliance on proxy warfare, and selective amnesia. Two events – seemingly distinct but deeply entangled – have reignited the foundational questions about what Pakistan is and what it seeks to remain.

Events of contrast

On one front, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, delivered a speech that resurrected the ghosts of the two-nation theory, the ideological foundation upon which Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the movement for the creation of Pakistan. In April, at the Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad, Gen. Munir declared that people of Pakistan are "fundamentally different" from Hindus – by religion, by tradition, by culture, and by ambition. "Our forefathers thought we were different in every possible aspect of life," he remarked, invoking the foundational narrative of Pakistan's birth. His language and tone were nostalgic, divisive and arrogant – an impassioned appeal to safeguard Jinnah's ideological legacy from being forgotten.

A day later, in Dhaka, Bangladesh asked Pakistan to account for the horrors of its disgusting past. During the first Foreign Secretary-level talks in 15 years, Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary demanded a long-awaited apology for the atrocities committed by Pakistan's army during the 1971 Liberation War. Even though the current regime in Bangladesh is courting Pakistan, the demand for confession of guilt is not merely ironic – it is a regrettable theatre of amnesia couched as strategic pragmatism. However, Pakistan's role during the birth of Bangladesh is an episode of colossal brutality that it still echoes in the nation's soul. Along with the apology for a horrendous campaign of systematic repression, Bangladesh has reiterated its demand for more than $4 billion in reparations – its share of undivided Pakistan's assets, including aid, pension funds and other state resources.

The irony here could not be starker, perhaps even tragic. It is a moment rich in historical contradiction: while Pakistan's security establishment affirms the hypothesis that Partition was imperative and morally justified, its former eastern wing – once tethered by fraud and fiction – demands accountability for the violent consequences of that very Partition gone awry, before formal reconciliation can be pursued.

> Pakistan's invocation of the two-nation theory must lead it to craft an honest self-examination

A theory, its reinforcement, the gaps

The two-nation theory argued that Muslims and Hindus were fundamentally distinct communities, defined by religious and cultural cleavages, and, therefore, could not function cohesively within a unified political framework once colonial rule ended in the Indian subcontinent. But this ideological assertion was not just a political device; it became a deeply embedded mythos, reinforced by the Pakistan state through textbooks and speeches. Yet, the theory contained its own seeds of disintegration. When the cultural and linguistic aspirations of Bengalis of East Pakistan were contemptuously denied, their votes in democratic elections utterly disrespected, and their cultural identity brutally suppressed by the Punjabi elite in Islamabad, the very logic of the two-nation theory turned in upon itself.

Gen. Munir's speech, then, needs to be understood not merely as a reaffirmation of a discredited ideology, but as an act of forgetting – a deliberate effacement of South Asian history's inconvenient lessons. It is a return to the familiar comforts of a useless theory that promises certainty in a world increasingly defined by ambiguity and fracture. But such affirmations, no matter how forcefully delivered, do not address the economic, political and security challenges that Pakistan faces.

Pakistan has never formally apologised for the atrocities against Bengalis, with successive regimes either denying or downplaying the violence, sometimes blaming rogue elements. Disturbingly, Pakistan appears ready to repeat the same pattern of repression in Balochistan, unapologetically demonstrating similar aggression, denial and unwillingness to engage politically with legitimate grievances. Instead of learning from its mistakes in East Pakistan, Rawalpindi seems trapped in a cycle of dictatorial responses to dissent, reinforcing the very divisions that once led to Pakistan's disintegration. The ideological orientation of the current Bangladeshi regime – emerging after Sheikh Hasina's ouster – represents not a principled shift but rather an opportunistic recalibration, driven by misguided beliefs that are causing significant tensions within the top echelons of the regime in Dhaka and in the relationship between the regime and many of the citizens, particularly as it seeks to distance itself from India and strengthen ties with Pakistan. Nonetheless, for most of the Bangladeshi people, the catastrophic events of 1971 are not matters of distant historical record; they are vivid inter-generational memories, reinforced by the collective trauma surrounding the nation's birth.

So profound is the burden of this trauma that it has driven the Dhaka regime to demand both a formal apology and reparations from Pakistan, even as Bangladesh signals a pragmatic turn toward normalisation. However, the demand for moral and material accountability is not driven by vindictiveness, but serves as a cathartic plea for the minimal recognition of responsibility from the aggressor. That Pakistan continues to withhold such recognition is indicative not merely of ideological obstinacy, but of a deeper pathology.

One must ask Pakistan's hybrid regime: what, precisely, has been gained through the repetition of ideology at the expense of self-examination? Has the invocation of the two-nation theory made Pakistan more cohesive, more egalitarian, or more at peace with its neighbours – or even with itself? The consequential question now is whether Pakistan can craft a national identity rooted in its own values and aspirations, not just in opposition to the 'Indian other'.

The two-nation theory may have been the genesis of Pakistan, but its emotionalism and divisiveness make it a very poor and inadequate guide for national action. As military tensions escalate in the wake of Indian airstrikes on terror camps in Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, the dangers of following the theory are thrown into stark relief. The hybrid regime, grappling with the riddle of the Imran Khan phenomenon, the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan, and strained relations with the Afghan Taliban, can find little solace in the obsolete concept of the two-nation theory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Operation Sindoor'

I recollect the lines in the book, *Homo Deus*, by Yuval Noah Harari, which defines the situation we and the world are in. "By themselves, terrorists are too weak to drag us back to the Middle Ages and re-establish the Jungle Law. They may provoke us, but in the end, it all depends on our reactions...." India must use its diplomatic strength now to ensure that Pakistan makes amends. It was not long ago that the Prime Minister said, "This is not the time for war".

N. Balu,
Chennai

India's quick and decisive move is a signal to Pakistan, yet again, that India will not tolerate barbarism on its soil. However, it is also preponderant to ensure that long-term measures and strong deterrence measures are in place.

Balagopal Gopinath,
Keerikkad, Alappuzha, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The road to regulatory reform

Ashish Dhawan
is the founder-CEO of The Convergence Foundation

Sanjeev Bikhchandani
is an entrepreneur

India is unique among emerging economies, as its growth has been driven primarily by services rather than manufacturing. If you take a cross-section of the Indian economy from 1980 until now, the share of manufacturing in India's gross value added has crept up marginally, from 16% to 17.5%. The share of services, however, has gone up dramatically, from 33% to 55% of India's gross value added.

What accounts for this unique feature of the Indian economy? The answer is that the brunt of economic regulation has fallen on manufacturing, as the factory – rather than the call centre or software firm – is seen as the archetype of industry. Services, by contrast, have been less exposed to regulatory attention.

That, however, is changing, as the growth of services brings them into the limelight. To recount some experiences in this regard: a few years back, an inspector visited a modern office of a service sector company run by one of us and demanded to see the snake-pit (meant to trap snakes). Arcane regulations mandate that all establishments have one. Recognising that hardly any observe this stipulation in practice, he indicated that the demand could be made to go away for a consideration.

On another occasion, when the second floor of an authorised office was being fitted out, a consultant assured us there would be no problem if we installed electric connections. When we did so, however, the same consultant arrived with the police, wanting to arrest the owner for violating regulations. It was evident that this was an extortion ring run in cahoots with local authorities.

Multiple similar incidents point to the hazards of doing business in India. When deregulation became the theme for the 2025 Budget, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced setting up a high-level committee for regulatory reform, that was indeed the right priority.

To curb regulatory cholesterol, the regime of inspections, checks, and no-objection certificates (NOCs) should be replaced by self-certification-based approvals and renewals, at least in low-risk activities. The validity of licences and approvals can be extended by the States in line with best-in-class practices in India and Southeast Asia. Certified third parties can be brought in to provide a range of approvals, such as building plans, labour, fire safety, and lift – speeding up the process.

Need for reforms

For ease of doing business that helps entrepreneurs on the ground, factor markets such as land and labour need to be reformed. Land should be made available for industrial use by lifting restrictions and easing regulations around land acquisition, change of land use, zoning, and building byelaws.

Further, full transparency should be legally mandated on documentation, NOCs, and checklists needed for all approvals and inspections. Deviations from the official procedure made available online should not be permitted. A joint inspection with prior notice should be mandated with a common checklist and harmonised documentation, taking place not more than once a year.

Technology should also be introduced for automated approvals and NOCs. For example, buildings not in flight paths or below a certain height can get an automatic NOC from the Airports Authority of India based on geotagged location. A similar approach for NOCs related to mining, forests, railways, and defence can be envisaged.

There is a need to go through labour laws and the Factories Act with a fine-tooth comb, eliminating archaic provisions and decriminalising other offences. A time-bound appeals mechanism should be instituted for harassment cases by departments, with consequences for overreach.

To change the culture of the bureaucracy from one of blocking to enabling, facilitating investments and economic growth should be made part of the performance evaluation criteria of all departments.

India needs manufacturing and services engines to fire. And gig work is set to be a permanent part of this landscape. Indian labour laws need to acquire sufficient flexibility to accommodate this.

There are moves afoot in some States to equate gig workers with full-time employees and impose overly inflexible labour laws currently applicable to the latter on the former. If anything, the movement should be in the opposite direction. If we are to utilise India's demographic dividend, we cannot wish away gig work, which offers significant opportunities for India's burgeoning workforce.

Regulation that recognises the rights and dignity of workers – whether gig or full-time – is essential. Such regulation should, however, be optimal, legitimising enterprises running on their labour rather than placing insuperable obstacles in their path. The prevailing attitude of regulators towards business remains one of distrust. This bureaucratic attitude needs to be transformed into one of trust.

Essentially, India is once again at a 1991-like moment. It carried out successful macro-economic reforms in 1991, and stable monetary and fiscal policies continue to serve it well to this day. However, achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047 requires stepping up the rate of economic growth to at least 8% annually and sustaining it at that level, even as it rows against strong external headwinds created by global trade wars.

This requires deep reform at the micro-economic level. While external factors may be beyond India's control, energising the domestic economy by removing regulatory cholesterol is a powerful internal lever it can pull.

The prevailing attitude of regulators towards business remains one of distrust. This bureaucratic attitude needs to be transformed into one of trust

Telangana grappling with officer deficit

The State is facing challenges in governance due to a shortage of AIS officers

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
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The Telangana government is facing severe hardships due to the absence of the required number of All India Services (AIS) officers as senior secretaries, Heads of Departments and other key posts, notwithstanding the progress the State has been making in various key parameters.

The sanctioned strength of IAS officers at the time of the State formation in 2014 was 163, while the allocated strength of IPS officers was 139, and 81 Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers were sanctioned for the State. The strength of IAS officers has since increased to 208 after the Centre sanctioned an additional 45 posts for Telangana.

However, the State had only 170 IAS officers in position last year – 38 less than the sanctioned strength – with no significant increase since then. There was also a shortage of nine IPS officers. In all, 57 IFS officers were on duty, as against the sanctioned strength of 81, at a time when the threat of the Maoist resurgence, especially in the forests and fringe areas, continues to haunt the administration.

Bridging the gap

Faced with a shortage of officers to man crucial departments, the State has been requesting the Centre to allot more officers to bridge the gap in the delivery of services to the people.

The Telangana government has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance cadre strength, especially in view of the reorganisation of the State into 33 districts in place of 10,

in the interest of administrative convenience. This requires at least 22 posts each for District Collectors and Superintendents of Police, in addition to other posts such as Joint Collectors and other roles filled by bureaucrats fresh into service.

The Centre has no doubt conceded the request to increase the strength of IAS officers by direct recruitment and promotions, but asserted that the process would be spread over a while.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha in December that the review of the IPS cadre in Telangana was under active consideration, but it was not feasible to specify a definite timeline for the process as it would be spread over a period of time.

Replying to a query by Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, the Minister acknowledged that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy sent proposals regarding cadre review in January, August and October last year.

A similar proposal was received from the Telangana government in 2021, and 49 IPS officers have been appointed since then. According to a written reply given to the Lok Sabha by the Home Ministry in December last, there were 15 vacancies of direct recruits, 23 promotion posts of IAS officers and one and eight posts in the IPS cadre, respectively, in Telangana.

The plight of the State government in managing with the limited available resources is evident in its continued reliance on senior officers being given full additional charge of multiple departments.

The recent major reshuffle of the IAS officers, the first major one after Mr. Revanth Reddy took over the reins, has close to 10 officers given full additional charge of different departments.

The government has been requesting the Centre to allot at least 60 additional AIS officers and more IPS officers, given the requirements on account of district reorganisation and perceived Maoist activity.

The Chief Minister, during his recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requested the Centre to allot 29 more IPS officers, especially senior officers, to effectively maintain the law-and-order situation and control the threats posed by Maoists; however, the request has not been conceded yet.

Officials blamed the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for not taking steps to revise cadre strength for almost nine years (Telangana was allotted 45 IAS officers in 2016). The DoPT, according to norms, should revise the cadre strength once every five years.

As Telangana continues its progress with a growth rate much higher than other States, the Centre should positively consider the State's request to increase the allocation of AIS officers, as it will go a long way in the effective implementation of the schemes and programmes. The step is administratively expedient, not politically, in the larger interest of the people as a whole.

Australia re-elects Albanese under economic, environmental strain

While the Labor party is focusing on student debts and housing crisis, it remains non-committal about surging coal exports

DATA POINT

Raida NM
Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Bharat A. Ramana

The Australian election is over, and the centre-left Labor Party has been re-elected. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese becomes the first Australian leader in over two decades to secure a second term. As of May 7, with 80% of votes counted and results confirmed in 138 of 150 seats, the outcome is clear: Labor has won 88 seats, comfortably crossing the 76-seat threshold needed to form a government. The centre-right Liberal-National coalition fared poorly, winning just 40 seats.

Interestingly, much like in Canada, Donald Trump's return to the U.S. presidency appears to have influenced the Australian election as well. Toward the end of 2023, voter sentiment in Australia began shifting in favour of the Liberal-National coalition, with support for the Labor Party steadily declining.

Chart 1 shows Australian voting intentions based on opinion polls conducted from 2022 through the election month. The gap between the two major parties narrowed sharply after Mr. Trump's return to the White House was confirmed in February. Notably, there are striking parallels in how Canada's Conservative leader, Pierre Poilievre, and Australia's Opposition leader Peter Dutton were perceived – both were viewed as Trump-like figures, a comparison that appeared to work against them.

Mr. Albanese has stated that passing legislation to reduce student debt is his top priority. The Labor Party has promised to cut student debt by 20%. **Chart 2** shows the number of students who have accessed the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) in millions and the total outstanding debt in billion Australian dollars (AUD). As of 2023-24, nearly 3 million Australians held HELP debt, with the total amount exceeding 80 billion AUD. Alarmingly, around 330,000 of these debtors are over the age of 50 – highlighting the long-term burden of student loans.

Affordable housing is becoming increasingly scarce in Australia, with the government identifying the sharp rise in immigration, particularly among international students, as a key driver of the crisis. In response, it has moved to curb student inflows, which surged well beyond the number of skilled migrants and other visa categories.

According to government data, 60% of international students live in apartments, 26% in detached houses, and the rest in hostels or university accommodation. When viewed alongside the record number of student arrivals in 2023, these figures help explain the mounting housing pressure, especially in Sydney and Melbourne.

Chart 3 shows the Rental Affordability Index in Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, and the Australian Capital Territory. A higher index indicates better affordability. In all cities, rent affordability has sharply declined, with the drop far steeper in Sydney, mirroring the surge in student migration.

The Labor Party has pledged 10 billion AUD to build up to 100,000 new homes. It has also promised to help first-time buyers enter the property market by allowing them to purchase homes with just a 5% deposit.

While the Labor Party has outlined clear policies on livelihood issues, it – such as the Liberal-National coalition – has remained silent on coal exports, despite mounting pressure to reduce them. **Chart 4** shows that over the past decade, Australia has been the world's largest exporter of bituminous coal, far surpassing the second-ranked U.S. Although exports have declined slightly over the last two years, Labor's non-committal stance leaves the question of whether its second term will bring any shift in the coal export policy.

A second innings, down under

Data for the charts were sourced from housingdata.gov.au, data.gov.au and UN comtrade

Sweet victory: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese orders an ice cream during a visit to Sydney, Australia. He has secured a historic second term, with Labor achieving a landslide victory

Chart 1: Australian voting intentions based on opinion polls conducted from 2022 to the election month in 2025

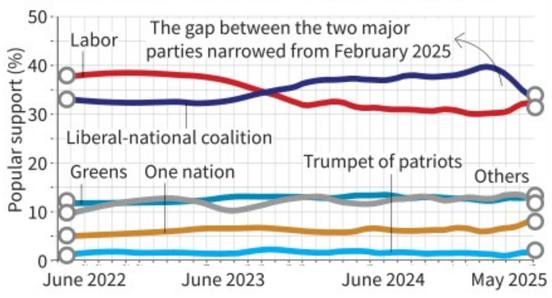


Chart 2: Students who have accessed the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) in million (Right axis) and the total outstanding debt in billion Australian dollars (AUD)

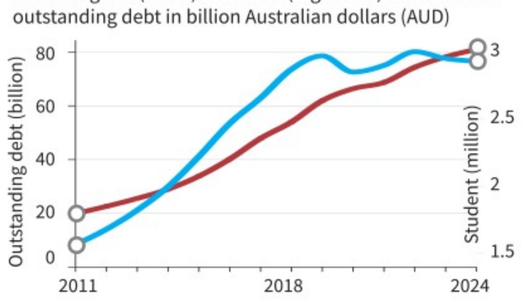
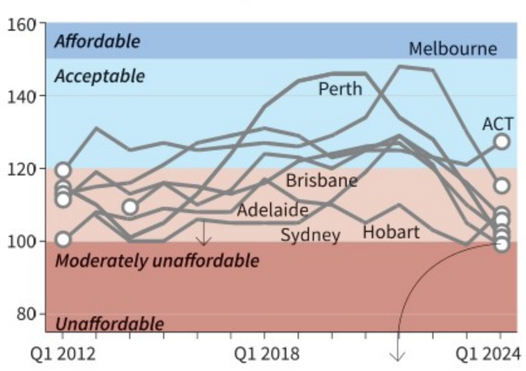
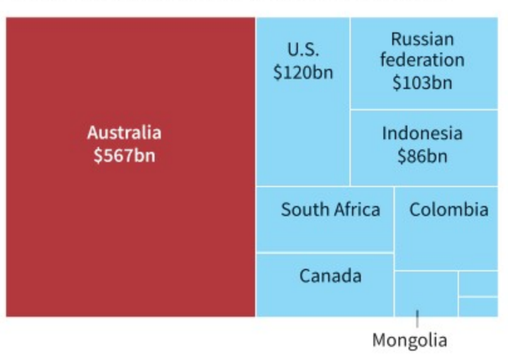


Chart 3: Rental Affordability Index in Australian cities



A higher index value indicates better affordability. In all cities, rent affordability has sharply declined

Chart 4: Chart shows export of bituminous coal by various countries in the 2013 to 2024 period in U.S. $ billion



Raida NM and Bharat A. Ramana are interning with the Hindu Data Team

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1975

"No U.S. Arms sale to Pak. after lifting of embargo"

Calcutta, May 7: The U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. William Saxbe said here to-day that no arms had been sold or shipped to Pakistan by his Government since its lifting of embargo on the sales.

"Nor there have been any talk or request from Pakistan for U.S. arms," he told newsmen during a brief halt at Calcutta airport on his way to Bhutan from Delhi.

Mr. Saxbe said it should be made clear that the embargo imposed unilaterally by his Government on Pakistan and India had been lifted for both the countries. U.S. arms sales "is now open for both India and Pakistan," he said.

But Pakistan and India, Mr. Saxbe said, had been "buying lot of arms from other countries. Pakistan had bought arms worth $350 millions from France and India had been buying arms from many countries for many million dollars."

Mr. Saxbe told a questioner that there was "great hope" for improvement in Indo-U.S. relations. When a correspondent asked what was the basis of his hope he replied "It will be to the mutual benefit of the two countries."

Asked about the proposed visit of President Ford to India, Mr. Saxbe said he had no definite information about it yet.

"I do not know whether there will be any change in the programme of Mr. Ford who is now scheduled to visit the Soviet Union and China." Asked about reports that Indian leaders' anti-US statements had created adverse reaction in Washington, as a result of which President Ford might cancel his visit to India, Mr. Saxbe said he had no comments to make. Mr. Saxbe hoped the Indo-US trade would expand and said the most important thing for increasing the trade was the efforts on the part of India to merchandise its products.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 8, 1925

Importation of wool

London, May 7: The Home Secretary has appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. T. W. Futterfield, Professor A. F. Barker, and Sir Gerald Bellhouse for the purpose of enquiring into the probable charge upon the industries in which East India Wool is used, if such wool was imported disinfected under the Government's disinfection scheme.

From Page One

Indian forces strike Pakistan terror bases

The strikes were conducted between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday, which were announced by the Defence Ministry shortly after that in a statement.

Of the 21 camps identified in Pakistan and PoK belonging to the terror groups Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, nine were targeted, located at distances ranging from 6 km to 100 km from the border. The targets in PoK are the Sawai Nala camp and Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad, Gulpur camp and Abbas camp in Kotli, and the Barnala camp in Bhimber. The targets in Pakistan are the Mehmoona Joya camp and Sarjal camp in Sialkot, Markaz Taiba in Muridke, and Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur.

In remarks at the briefing, Mr. Misri noted that following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the Government of India "naturally" responded with a set of initial measures, referring to the announcements on April 23, and it was deemed essential that the perpetrators and planners of the attack be brought to justice.

"Despite a fortnight having passed since the attacks, there has been no demonstrable step from Pakistan to take action against the terrorist infrastructure on its territory or on territory under its control. Instead, all it has indulged in are denials and allegations. Our intelligence monitoring of Pakistan-based terrorist modules indicated that further attacks against India were impending. There was thus a compulsion both to deter and to pre-empt," he said. Mr. Misri said India "exercised its right to respond and pre-empt as well as deter" more such cross-border attacks.

The selection of targets for Operation Sindoor was based on credible intelligence inputs and role of these facilities in perpetrating terror activities, Wing Commander Singh said during the briefing on the operation. "The locations were so selected to avoid damage to civilian installations and loss of civilian lives."

To this, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, who was also present at the briefing, added that the target selection was done with due diligence.

The strikes on terror camps were undertaken through "precision capability", using niche technology weapons with careful selection of warheads that ensured no collateral damage, Wing Commander Singh stated. "The point of impact in each of the target was a specific building or a group of buildings. All the targets were neutralised with clinical efficiency and the results reiterate the professionalism of Indian armed forces in planning and execution of operations," she said.

Defence sources said the majority of the targets were hit by the Army and the rest by the Indian Air Force (IAF). Given that the fighter jets did not cross the border, the likely options exercised were Rafale or Mirage 2000 jets with the SCALP long-range missile and HAMMER air-to-ground weapon. The Army, sources said, used precision-guided munitions and loitering munitions. The Army has the Excalibur precision-guided rounds that can be fired from 155mm artillery guns and has also procured several types of loitering munitions in the past few years. However, sources ruled out any use of missiles by the Army.

These are the third such punitive strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK in the past decade following the surgical strikes by the Indian Army in September 2016 after the Uri terror attack and the Balakot air strikes by the Indian Air Force against terror training camps in February 2019 after the Pulwama terror attack.

Pakistan's response

In a statement following the air strikes, the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that all planes of the Pakistan Air Force were airborne. "All strikes were made by India from its own airspace. Pakistan will respond to it at a time and place of its own choosing. It will not go unanswered. The temporary pleasure of India will be replaced by enduring grief," it stated.

(With inputs from PTI)

India briefs envoys of 13 Security Council members

Foreign Secretary conveys details of military strikes to them as part of a larger strategy to counter Pakistan at the UNSC 1267 terror listing and FATF; Misri denies that India has escalated tensions

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri says India will respond to any military escalation by Pakistan after Operation Sindoor. FILE PHOTO

India's strikes on Pakistan were not an escalation, but a "response" to the Pahalgam terror attack, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told envoys of 13 of 15 countries in the United Nations Security Council.

Pakistan's envoy was not invited to the briefing held at South Block hours after India's action, but included China's envoy Xu Feihong. Sierra Leone was not present at the meeting as it does not have an envoy here.

In New York, the Indian Permanent Mission is reaching out to the UNSC members, government sources said.

During the meeting, Mr. Misri reiterated that India's response to the "barbaric" Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 were killed were "targeted, measured and non-escalatory", and aimed at deterring and pre-empting more attacks being planned against India. He said that by "shielding" The Resistance Front (TRF), by insisting on its omission from the UNSC resolution released last week, Pakistan had itself escalated the situation. India would respond to any military escalation by Pakistan at this point, he added.

According to sources, the Foreign Secretary was asked a number of questions about the operations in the early hours of Wednesday, from the envoys of countries such as China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S. and non-permanent members Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Panama, South Korea, Slovenia and Somalia.

He denied suggestions that India had "escalated tensions" as the strikes were a response, and said India's objectives of targeting nine sites had been met.

In particular, when asked by U.K. High Commissioner Lindy Cameron about whether Indians had targeted civilians in mosques that were damaged, Indian officials said that the targets were terror camps that were inside larger complexes.

According to diplomatic sources, Mr. Misri was also asked about damage to Indian military and civilian infrastructure, to which he replied that it was "too early to tell".

The special briefing is believed to be a part of a larger strategy to reach out at the UN's top body, to thwart moves by Pakistan, a non-permanent elected member for 2025-26, that has permanent member China's support, from holding any meetings or issuing statements that hurt India's interests, and to hold the TRF and other groups in Pakistan to account on UN forums, including the 1267 committee for terrorist designation, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that looks into terror-financing and money laundering among member States.

Earlier, briefing the media at Delhi's National Media Centre, Mr. Misri had recounted in detail how India had raised the issue of Pakistan's support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the TRF, its front outfit, at various UN-linked forums.

As *The Hindu* had reported, Pakistan, with support from China, had ensured the UNSC statement draft on the Pahalgam attack issued on April 25 was watered down, and insisted on omitting reference to the TRF, and changed a sentence that asked members to cooperate with the "Government of India" to "all relevant authorities" for the investigation into the attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan's pressure to remove references to TRF in the April 25 UN Security Council Press Statement is notable in this regard," Mr. Misri said.

Shah asks border States to stock up on essential goods

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

States told to ensure the smooth operation of essential services and keep rescue services on alert

As the scheduled drills were conducted at various places across the country on Wednesday hours after Operation Sindoor by the Indian armed forces concluded, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked the Chief Ministers of the States bordering Pakistan and Nepal to stock essential items, and ensure the availability of essential services in accordance with the guidelines of the drill.

Mr. Shah asked the States to stop the spread of unnecessary fear among the public, and take steps to increase awareness against rumours, a press statement by Union Home Ministry said.

Sirens blared and sections of cities went dark as hostile attack scenarios were simulated by volunteers, the police, and others on the directions of the Home Ministry to check civil defence preparedness.

Leave cancelled

A day after the operation by the armed forces, a heightened alert was sounded, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel were recalled from leave, a government official said.

At the meeting attended by the Lieutenant-Governors of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and West Bengal; and a representative from the Sikkim government via video conferencing, Mr. Shah said Operation Sindoor was "a befitting reply from Bharat to those who dare to challenge India's borders, military, and citizens".

The Home Minister informed the States that arrangements should be made for the smooth operation of essential services, including hospitals, and Fire Services, and uninterrupted supply of essential goods.

He asked them to keep the State Disaster Response Force, Civil Defence, Home Guards, National Cadet Corps, and others, on alert to deal with any situation. Mr. Shah said that efforts should be made to ensure public participation through citizen and non-governmental organisations.

Govt. calls all-party meet today; Cabinet lauds military strikes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Droupadi Murmu and chaired a Cabinet meeting to brief his colleagues on the military strikes.

The government convened an all-party meeting to brief all political parties on Operation Sindoor in Parliament on Thursday.

According to sources, the Prime Minister lauded the "perfect" operations carried out by the armed forces. During the meeting, his Cabinet colleagues expressed confidence in the armed forces and the leadership of Mr. Modi with a thumping of desks.

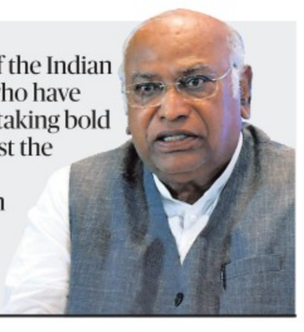
Later in the day, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that the government would hold an all-party meeting at 11 a.m. in Parliament on Thursday. The Congress expressed hope that Mr. Modi would attend the meeting.

Speaking to pressperson, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said: "...This is the first all-party meeting after the powerful and decisive 'Operation Sindoor'. Our Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, both will be attending the meeting. We expect the Prime Minister to chair the meeting. We know that every detail cannot be shared in such meetings, but broadly, the diplomatic and security strategy can be discussed," Mr. Ramesh said.

Congress lauds 'bold steps' to target terrorism, sends message of unity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> We are proud of the Indian armed forces, who have given a befitting reply by taking bold and decisive action against the terror camps of Pakistan and PoK under Operation Sindoor
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president



The Congress on Wednesday lauded the Indian armed forces and the Narendra Modi government after precision strikes were carried out on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who presided over a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), said India had given a befitting reply to Pakistan.

"We had called a meeting of the Working Committee to discuss the incident and the government's action. We are proud of the Indian armed forces, who have given a befitting reply by taking bold and decisive action against the terror camps of Pakistan and PoK under Operation Sindoor. We salute the courage, determination and patriotism of our brave soldiers," Mr. Kharge said after the meeting.

In solidarity

The Congress chief asserted that from the day of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, his party had stood in solidarity with the armed forces and the government on the issue of taking decisive action against cross-border terrorism.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the Congress extended all its support to the armed forces.

"Our full support to our forces, best wishes to them, much love to them. Complete support from the Congress party and the Congress Working Committee," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Kharge, who is also the LoP in the Rajya Sabha, and Mr. Gandhi will be attending the all-party meeting convened by the government on Thursday.

Sources told *The Hindu* that though there was a discussion on whether top leaders should attend if the meeting was not chaired by Prime Minister Modi, senior leaders including former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar said the top Opposition leaders must participate.

The party also put a pause to all scheduled party programmes, including the 'Samvidhan Bachao Rallies', in solidarity with the armed forces. Several senior leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala stressed the need to be seen with the armed forces.

U.K. urges India and Pakistan to show restraint, engage in dialogue

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

David Lammy

The U.K. government has urged India and Pakistan to show restraint and enter into dialogue with each other, following the launch of Operation Sindoor by India, in the early hours of Wednesday, in which nine targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir were struck, according to the government. The strikes were New Delhi's response to the April 22 attack, when terrorists killed 26 civilians in Pahalgam in Kashmir.

"The U.K. government is urging India and Pakistan to show restraint and engage in direct dialogue to find a swift, diplomatic path forward," said U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy, calling the tensions "a serious concern".

The U.K. has a unique role in the origins of the conflict between India and Pakistan, given that it was the former colonial power in India and the region. The ruling Labour Party, under Labour leader and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, has also sought to reset its ties with India and British Indians, walking back the party's former positions on Kashmir, for instance.

"The U.K. has close and unique relationships with both countries," Mr. Lammy said, adding that Britain was "clear in its condemnation of the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam last month."

"We need all sides to work urgently to see regional stability restored and ensure protection of civilians," Mr. Lammy said.

Former U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose wife is Indian, spoke in support of India's strikes. "No nation should have to accept terrorist attacks being launched against it from a land controlled by another country. India is justified in striking terrorist infrastructure," he said on X.

Just hours before the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart, Mr. Starmer, had spoken on the phone and announced that the two countries had reached a trade deal, after three years of negotiations.

On Wednesday, U.K. Secretary of State for Trade Jonathan Reynolds told the BBC that the developments were "deeply worrying", and said the U.K. was "standing ready to support both countries on dialogue, on de-escalation and, of course, on regional stability". The government was also doing anything it could to manage any tensions that could arise in the U.K., Mr. Reynolds said.

The U.K. government also issued a travel warning for India and Pakistan, including a warning about disruptions to flights.

Opposition praises armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> INDIA neutralised terror infrastructure without crossing the line or endangering innocent lives. This is the strength of INDIA — firm in resolve, yet honourable in action!
>
> **ABHISHEK BANERJEE**
> Trinamool Congress leader

Political leaders across the spectrum on Wednesday united in commending the Indian armed forces for missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor.

Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said the country stood firmly with the armed forces.

Honourable: Trinamool

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee uploaded a photograph of the government's briefing on Operation Sindoor by Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, describing this "powerful image [as] reaffirming India's unity in the face of external attempts to divide us".

Mr. Banerjee lauded the armed forces for the precision strike, posting: "INDIA neutralised terror infrastructure without crossing the line or endangering innocent lives. This is the strength of INDIA – firm in resolve, yet honourable in action!"

Senior RJD leader and Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha commended the Indian Army for precision targeting that avoided any civilian settlements in the neighbouring country.

'Continue pressure'

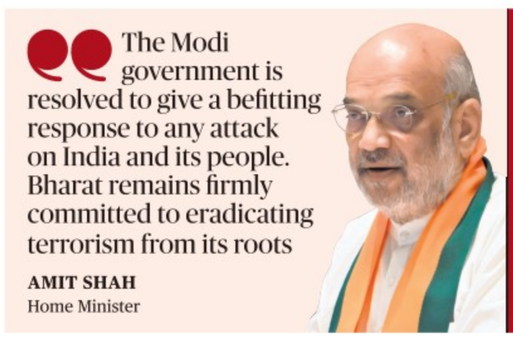
The CPI(M) reiterated that in the all-party meeting held following the Pahalgam terror attack, all political parties extended support to the Union government's measures against terrorists and their handlers.

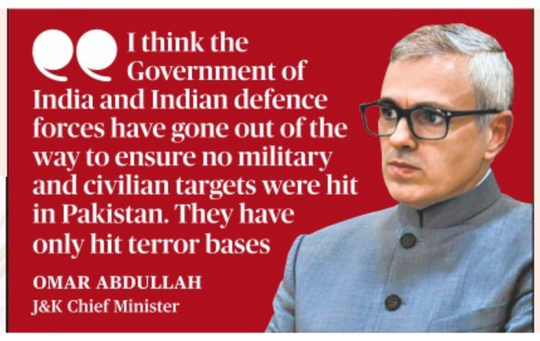
"Along with these actions, pressure should continue on Pakistan to hand over those responsible for the massacre of innocent people in Pahalgam and to ensure that no terrorist camps operate from its territory," the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

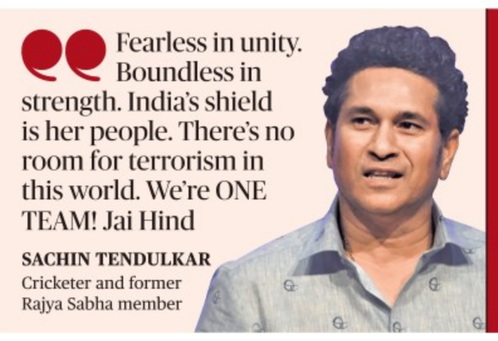
Had little choice: CPI

CPI general secretary D. Raja said that given the grave provocation and loss of innocent lives, India had little choice but to respond firmly against the sources of such terrorism.

"The targeted nature of the strikes – avoiding Pakistani military assets and focusing solely on terrorist infrastructure – demonstrates a calibrated and non-escalatory approach, prioritising accountability without inviting full-scale conflict," he said.







Terror sites targeted by Indian forces linked to JeM, LeT, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

Outfits and their leaders, variously named by probe agencies, UNSC, and the U.S., have masterminded a series of terror attacks in India over the years; Muzaffarabad and other locations where the Indian defence forces have struck, serve as 'launching pads' for terrorists, according to agencies

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Remains of the day: A private security guard walking through the rubble of a building damaged in an Indian missile attack in Muridke, a town in Pakistan's Punjab province, on Wednesday. AP

The terrorist bases targeted by the Indian armed forces in nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) early on Wednesday have been linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

Indian investigation agencies said the JeM's terrorist recruitment and training base in Bahawalpur in Pakistan was set up soon after the outfit's formation in March 2000 by Masood Azhar in the months following his release along with two others by India in exchange for the passengers and crew of the IC-814 flight hijacked on December 24, 1999.

The outfit has masterminded a series of terror attacks in India, including the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly car blast in October 2001; Parliament attack in coordination with the LeT on December 13, 2001; the Pathankot airbase attack in January 2016; and the Pulwama suicide bombing on February 14, 2019 in which at least 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed, prompting the Indian forces to launch the Balakot air strike 12 days later.

The anti-terrorism United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1267 Committee had listed Azhar in May 2019, while the JeM itself was sanctioned back in 2001.

On May 1, 2019, the U.S. Department of State welcomed the listing and noted that Azhar "has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks and is a serious threat to regional stability and peace in South Asia".

"JeM was designated by the U.S. as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in 2001 and has been listed by the UN since 2001. The United States also designated Azhar as an SDGT in 2010," the U.S. Department of State had said.

The LeT

Co-founded in 1987-88 by Hafiz Saeed, the LeT has its headquarters in Muridke near Lahore. Its parent organisation is Markaz al Dawatul Wal Irshad, later renamed Jamaat-ud-Dawa.

Apart from the 2001 Parliament attack, the LeT was behind the October 2005 Delhi blasts series in which over 60 people were killed; the July 2006 Mumbai train blasts in which more than 200 people were killed; and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in November 2008 that claimed 166 lives. The outfit also masterminded the Uri Army base attack killing 19 soldiers in September 2016, the probe agencies found.

The JeM training base is in Bahawalpur and LeT headquarters is in Muridke

Thereafter, Indian forces had conducted surgical strikes against "terrorist launchpads" across the Line of Control (LoC).

In May 2005, the UNSC 1267 Committee had sanctioned the LeT on the charge that it had connections with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Al-Qaeda, and associated entities. Saeed was listed on December 10, 2008, along with several other key LeT terrorists.

The U.S., on November 24, 2017, expressed deep concern that Saeed had been released from house arrest in Pakistan. "LeT is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent civilians in terrorist attacks, including a number of American citizens. The Pakistani government should make sure that he is arrested and charged for his crimes," the U.S. said. In May 2008, the U.S. Department of the Treasury named Saeed an SDGT.

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has had its headquarters in Muzaffarabad, PoJK, and was founded in 1989 by Muhammad Ahsan Dar. Its current chief is Syed Salahuddin.

It mainly operates in J&K and was very active in the 1990s. Its "commander" Burhan Wani was killed in south Kashmir during an encounter with the security forces in 2016. Muzaffarabad, besides the other locations where the defence forces have struck, acts as a "launching pad" for terrorists against India, according to Indian probe agencies.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi addressing the media on Operation Sindoor. ANI

First attack in Pak.'s Punjab since 1971

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Four of the nine strikes carried out under Operation Sindoor were on Pakistan's territory, including its heartland, Punjab – marking the first time India has carried out a strike there since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, 54 years ago.

The targets chosen are connected to a series of terror attacks in India over the years. They are the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the Pathankot attack, the Uri terror attacks, and the Pahalgam attack on April 22, among others.

The government deployed two women officers to brief the media, and the world, on the operation – Colonel Sofiya Qureshi from the Army and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh from the Indian Air Force (IAF) – after the initial statement by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Colonel Qureshi is an officer from the Corps of Signals, commanding a Unit. She was selected for the role of Military Observer in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006. In March 2016, she became the first and only woman officer to lead an Army contingent at a multinational military exercise, Force 18, hosted by India for interoperability in sustaining peace among the ASEAN nations.

Real-time footage from unmanned aerial vehicles confirmed the destruction of targets

Wing Commander Singh is a helicopter pilot flying Cheetah and Chetak, with over 2,500 hours flying hours to her credit. She is currently posted at the Directorate of Operations (Media & Public Relations) at the IAF headquarters in the national capital.

Synchronised strikes

The strikes were carried out between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday. All munitions struck their designated targets and the strikes were synchronised to avoid detection and maximise the element of surprise, sources in the know said. Real-time footage from unmanned aerial vehicles confirmed the destruction of target facilities. "The decision to target deep into Pakistani-administered territory was a departure from prior doctrine and marked a new level of strategic assertiveness," a source observed.

Over the past three decades, Pakistan has systematically built terror infrastructure, Colonel Qureshi said, showcasing a map of the 21 camps identified, of which nine were picked for the strikes. "It is a complex web of recruitment and indoctrination centres, training areas for initial and refresher courses and launch pads with handlers."

Among the targets was Markaz Taiba in Muridke, the headquarters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba led by Hafiz Saeed, around 25 km from the International Boundary (IB). "Terrorists trained here have also been associated with many terrorist attacks, including Mumbai attacks in 2008. Ajmal Kasab, the Pakistani terrorist captured alive after Mumbai attack, had confessed to having received training at Muridke. As per inputs, it was revealed that David Coleman Headley had also received training at this camp," Colonel Qureshi said.

Important target

Another important target was Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, located around 100 km from the IB. This camp was used for recruitment, training, and indoctrinating JeM terrorists and was frequently visited by terrorist commanders, including Masood Azhar, according to Colonel Qureshi. Two other targets in Sialkot of Pakistan were the Sarjal camp and the Mehmoona Joya camp. The Sarjal camp is located about 6 km from the IB, opposite Samba-Kathua sector.

It is in this camp where the terrorists who killed four personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in March 2025 were trained and launched. The Mehmoona Joya camp is located around 12 km from the IB and is a key training facility of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The camp was being used as the control centre for the revival of terrorism in Kathua and Jammu region, Colonel Qureshi said.

A Pakistan soldier in a building damaged by an Indian missile attack near Muzaffarabad in PoK on Wednesday. AP

Pakistan authorises armed forces to take 'action' after strike

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling India's strikes on nine targets across the Line of Control and the International boundary a "violation of Pakistan's sovereignty", the National Security Committee (NSC) on Wednesday said it had authorised the Pakistani armed forces to take "corresponding actions".

The meet was convened by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hours after the strikes, and the participants were apprised of the casualties and damage to property in the country.

In an emotional address on Wednesday evening, Mr. Sharif, who had also addressed the Pakistani Parliament, vowed to "avenge every drop of blood" for dozens of Pakistanis believed to have been killed in the attacks by India, among them a seven-year-old boy, whose funeral Mr. Sharif and other Pakistani leaders attended.

According to a statement issued by Mr. Sharif's office, the Pakistan armed forces claimed that they had mounted a response to India's actions early on Wednesday morning, even claiming that they had brought down "five Indian fighter aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)". However, the statement did not offer any evidence of the claim, which has not been confirmed in India.

"In consonance with Article-51 of the UN Charter, Pakistan reserves the right to respond, in self-defence, at a time, place, and manner of its choosing to avenge the loss of innocent Pakistani lives and blatant violation of its sovereignty," it read.

Along with the deaths, the Pakistani PMO claimed that "civilian infrastructure including mosques" had been damaged, and accused the strikes of endangering commercial aircraft belonging to Gulf countries. However, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had said that the strikes had no "civilian, economic or military" targets.

The statement said the NSC had "called upon the international community to recognize the gravity" of India's actions.

Pakistan has unleashed a disinformation offensive: govt.

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) said in a statement on Wednesday that following India's "precision strikes" against terrorist bases, Pakistan had "unleashed a full-blown disinformation offensive" on social media in a "desperate attempt to shift the focus from ground reality".

"Pro-Pakistan social media handles and even influential political figures are deliberately spreading fake news, fabricating stories of miraculous military victories and heroic retaliation that simply do not exist," the Ministry said. It said Pakistan's state-affiliated accounts had been recycling outdated images, misrepresenting old videos, and inventing completely fabricated claims.

It is learnt that a war room was set up on Wednesday within the fact check unit of the Press Information Bureau to cross-check round-the-clock the information being circulated on various social media platforms. The PIB has flagged at least seven major instances of "propaganda" being spread through "pro-Pakistan" handles making false claims.

Describing it all as a coordinated attempt by Pakistan to mislead the media, distort the global narrative, and manipulate public perception in the wake of India's successful operation, the Ministry said Pakistan was trying to create the "illusion of a strong counter-response".

Night fallout

The likely remnants of a drop tank of a fighter jet that fell in Wuyan, Pampore, approximately 18 km from Srinagar in South Kashmir, early on Wednesday morning. IMRAN NISSAR

At least 12 civilians and one soldier killed, many injured in shelling by Pak. in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

At least 12 civilians, including three women and as many children, were killed, and 51 injured as the Pakistan Army resorted to heavy mortar shelling and firing on villages, hitting scores of houses and vehicles in four districts close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

One Indian soldier was killed in "unprovoked shelling by Pakistani forces" close to the LoC in the Poonch sector, officials said.

The Pakistan Army's intensification of mortar shelling in Rajouri and Poonch districts in the Jammu division, and Kupwara and Baramulla districts in the Kashmir Valley followed India's Operation Sindoor.

The Indian Army, in a statement, said it was responding to fire in 'proportionate manner'

Residents living close to the border areas were gripped with a sense of fear as casualties rose in the shelling incidents, with the authorities setting up temporary shelters in Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla, and R.S. Pora.

Officials said the shelling impacted Balakote, Mendhar, Mankote, Krishna Ghati, Gulpur, Kerni, and Poonch town, and left 42 injured. When contacted, Vikas Kundal, Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, could not furnish details of the casualties in Poonch.

Sources said admissions of injured persons to the hospital in Poonch had been increasing since Wednesday morning.

The Indian Army, in a statement, said it was responding in a "proportionate manner".

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired an emergency meeting with the Deputy Commissioners of all border districts through video conferencing to assess the situation in these districts.

He directed the immediate release of ₹5 crore to each border district, and ₹2 crore to each of the other districts, "so that Deputy Commissioners are equipped to deal with the exigencies arising and requiring availability of adequate resources".

INBRIEF

SC demands permanent body to fix errors in CLAT

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, expressing strong displeasure at "error-riddled questions" in the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), 2025, voiced the need for a "permanent mechanism" similar to the NEET for medical admissions. The Consortium of National Law Universities (CNLU), which conducts CLAT on a rotational basis, was criticised for the "casual manner" in framing questions. The court issued notice to the Education Ministry, noting no remedial action since a 2018 judgment. The current legal dispute had delayed the CLAT 2025 counselling process. The next hearing is on Friday.

One dead, nine injured after aircraft crash in Punjab village

One person was killed and nine were injured after an unidentified aircraft reportedly crashed at Aklian Kalan village in Bathinda district of Punjab on the night of May 6-7. The deceased, Govind from Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, died *en route* to a local hospital. Eyewitnesses heard a loud noise around 1.30 a.m., followed by an explosion that injured several people as they rushed to the crash site. Local police and defence personnel cordoned off the area. The nature and origin of the aircraft remain unconfirmed. The injured were admitted to the civil hospital, with one referred to the AIIMS, Bathinda. An investigation is expected.

21 airports in North India to remain shut till May 10

Decision following Indian military strikes on Pakistan has resulted in a large number of flight cancellations by Indian airlines operating on domestic routes; international flights too affected

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

At least 21 airports across India, primarily in northern and north-western regions, have been closed for passenger flights until May 10, following a government directive amid Indian military strikes near the border with Pakistan.

These airports will remain closed till 5.29 a.m. on May 10, says the notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued to airlines accessed by *The Hindu* through sources in the Civil Aviation Ministry.

The airports span the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Leh and the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

This has resulted in a large number of flight cancellations by Indian airlines operating on domestic routes. Some international flights were also affected as airlines, including those of the U.S. could not use Pakistan's airspace. The airports include those in Jammu and Srinagar in J&K and Leh; Amritsar, Chandigarh, Patiala and Halwara airports in Punjab; Shimla and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh; Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Kishangarh in Rajasthan; and Bhuj, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Mundra, Porbandar, Kandla, Keshod and Bhuj in Gujarat, as per a NOTAM issued by the Airports Authority of India. The Gwalior and Hindon airports have also been affected, according to information posted by the airlines on X.

Many of these airports are used jointly by airlines and the IAF. IndiGo has cancelled over 165 flights across 11 airports until 5.29 a.m. of May 10, according to its press statement. Air India confirmed flight cancellations at nine airports in a post on X for the same time frame. Air India Express also halted flights from Amritsar, Gwalior, Jammu, Srinagar, and Hindon. SpiceJet has cancelled flights to and from Leh, Srinagar, Jammu, Dharamshala, Kandla and Amritsar. Akasa Air said it has cancelled all its flights to and from Srinagar until May 9.

Left in the lurch: Passengers seen stranded after the closure of Sri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport in Amritsar on Wednesday. ANI

The NOTAM came into effect from early morning on Wednesday for most of these airports when flight-tracking websites such as FlightRadar24 showed no commercial flights operating in Indian airspace north of New Delhi barring Dehradun.

Airlines have notified passengers via social media about potential delays and cancellations, urging them to check flight statuses and plan accordingly. All affected airlines have offered free rescheduling or full refunds for cancelled flights. While U.S. carriers American and United cancelled their Tuesday departures to Delhi, other aircraft from West Asia and Europe that were already en route to India diverted to other airports due to tensions in the region.

"Due to the evolving situation in South Asia and resulting airspace limitations, United has cancelled our flight to New Delhi today. We will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions on upcoming flights," the airline said in a statement.

PMLA ruling review: SC seeks issues for consideration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave petitioners seeking a review of its July 27, 2022 judgment that upheld amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the liberty to propose issues in consultation with the Centre's top law officers, who raised objections.

The 2022 verdict gave the agency extensive powers of arrest, summons, and search

The 2022 verdict gave the Enforcement Directorate (ED) broad powers of arrest, summons, and search. It also placed the burden of proving innocence on the accused, rather than the prosecution.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the review must be limited to two issues – the right of the accused to a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and the reversal of the burden of proof. The court had earlier restricted the review to these points, and the Centre filed an affidavit confirming this, which the petitioners did not oppose.

However, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners including Karti Chidambaram, pointed out a conflicting judgment by a coordinate Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka, which ruled ECIR copies must be shared with the accused.

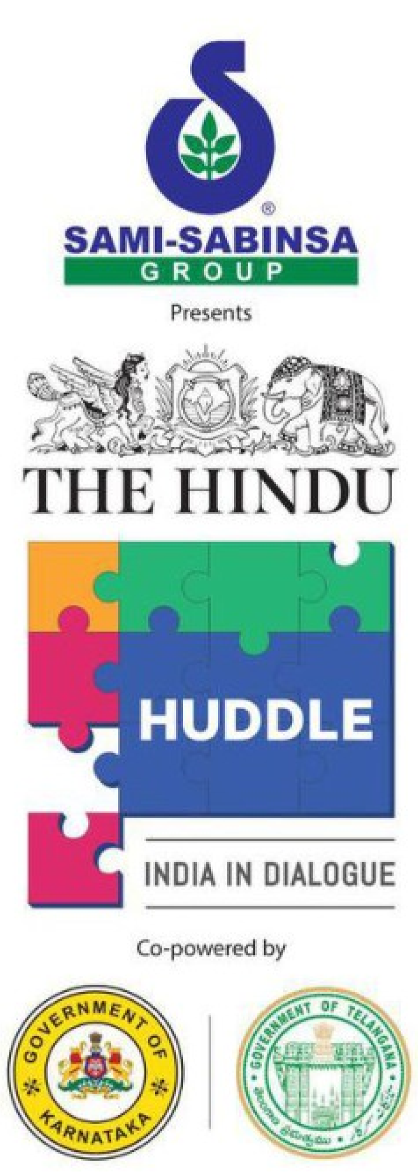
Conflicting judgment

Mr. Sibal said the review, in the light of Justice Oka's conflicting judgment, must go to a Constitution Bench for an authoritative pronouncement.

Justice Kant remarked that Mr. Sibal's submissions suggested a complete recall of the 2022 judgment. The Bench asked him to instead broadly suggest issues in consultation with Mr. Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju and place it before the court first for its consideration. The court fixed the case for firming up the issues on July 16. It then scheduled the case for final hearing of arguments on August 6, and if necessary, on August 7.

The petitioners argue the 2022 judgment violates basic rights of the accused.

The Hindu Huddle to shine the light on rising tide of non-communicable diseases in India



The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Let us look at some sobering facts: India has the highest number of people living with diabetes in the world, with an estimated 212 million cases in 2022.

According to the World Health Organization, there are an estimated 77 million people in India above the age of 18 who are suffering from diabetes (type 2) and nearly 25 million are pre-diabetic (at a higher risk of developing diabetes in near future). That is probably the largest part of the non-communicable diseases (NCD) pie. Add to this the number of people with hypertension, stroke, cancer, cardiovascular disease and chronic lung disease and the actual position is truly staggering.

NCDs occur because of a combination of factors – primarily changing lifestyles, environmental factors, and genetics – and have grown to a huge proportion in the country. The messaging, therefore, is that interventions have to be immediate, and effective, both in terms of launching treatment as well as prevention strategies.

A session at *The Hindu* Huddle, which will be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10, titled "Non-communicable diseases: Trojan horse of India's health", seeks to discuss the multiple dimensions of India's NCD 'epidemic' and evaluate strategies that may be deployed by the public and private health sectors to ensure that the tide is stemmed and that all those who already have NCDs have access to treatment and affordable healthcare. On the panel are three key experts from India who stand at various points of the care paradigm. They will share real-time experiences, and possible solutions for the way forward.

While Preetha Reddy, executive vice-chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, comes armed with the experience of being at the head of cutting-edge private care in the country, Anoop Mishra, chairman, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, brings to the table avant-garde research in the sector and experiences from close patient interactions. Chandrakanth Lahariya wears many hats, but will participate as someone who keenly watches the health systems of the country and a sagacious policy adviser. The session will be moderated by Ramya Kannan, Health Editor and Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, *The Hindu*.

If you have any questions that you would like the moderator to ask the panellists, write to huddle@thehindu.co.in

***The Hindu* Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group**

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The Hindu Made of Chennai wins laurels at WAN-IFRA World Media Awards 2025

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu has been honoured with the "World Winner" award under the "Best in Digital Advertising Product or Initiative" category at the WAN-IFRA World Media Awards, 2025, recently held in Krakow, Poland.

The accolade was for *The Hindu* Made of Chennai (MoC) campaign, which brought Chennai's stories and spirit to the forefront during the city's 385th birthday. This marks the second consecutive year that the campaign has received international recognition.

In its second edition, the MoC transformed Madras Day (August 22) into Madras Month, with 40 days of celebration. The campaign brought live concerts, art exhibitions, quizzes, photography contests, and social impact programmes to the city. The "Namma Marina, Namma Pride" beach clean-up and "Zero Accidents" road safety drive, conducted in partnership with the Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Police, were initiatives that made MoC unique.

A crowd gathers during the 'Moonlight Cinema' screening along the beach as part of the 'Made of Chennai' initiative. FILE PHOTO

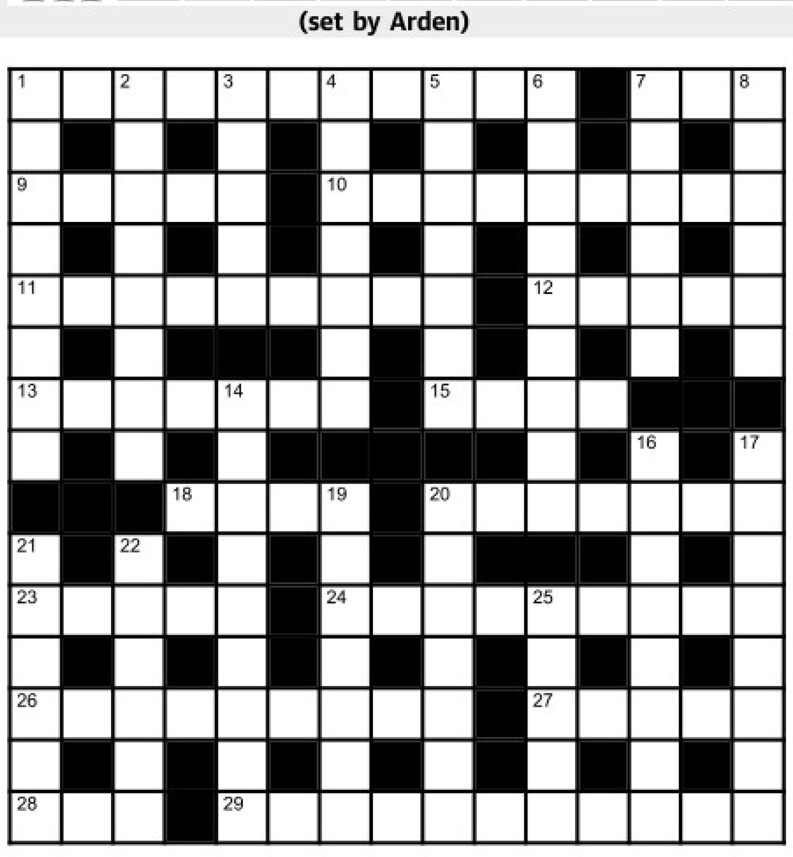
Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The Hindu Group, said, "This global recognition by WAN-IFRA is a celebration of Chennai itself – its people, its stories, and its resilience. 'Made of Chennai' was conceptualised to reflect the essence of our city in a way that connects deeply and meaningfully. We are proud that a campaign born from love for Chennai has been honoured on the world stage."

TH CROSSWORD+ 14479

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Plant-eating dinosaur protects air pollution (11)
7 Talk openly about a vegetable (3)
9 It's about writer's review, very clumsy (5)
10 Pressure on one who stays in the White House (9)
11 Rarely represented - one follows an athletic event (5,4)
12 Tense is not dirty (5)
13 Tax and depression - refuse to go in here (7)
15 Back up store transport (4)
18 Answer to ED, half a dozen leave for city (4)
20 Tough to follow state summon (4-3)
23 American city has to be included as a capital (5)
24 "Ship's crew to eat raw fish" - official sources (9)
26 One takes a toll perhaps - never start suddenly (3,2,4)
27 "Die" they say in the heart of state capital (5)
28 Money gets money back, partly (3)
29 Chicken on boulder in the park (11)

Down

1 Another article about a water channel (8)
2 Plantable in parts, one's a romantic (8)
3 Admission after midnight for the rich (5)
4 Pave the way for Cleopatra's killer's arrest (7)
5 Binge on with occasional penalty (7)
6 Arranging nuptials - one invested American capital (5,4)
7 Bird - wee funny, in other words (6)
8 Cunning like regular trustee (6)
14 Call one to audition for show (9)
16 Storm trooper, starts night duty operations (8)
17 Holy man's voice suppressed long time back (5,3)
19 Central Park on top - ways to bring up a football team (7)
20 Confine one to start with nearby (5,2)
21 Times coverage of the King - looking tired (6)
22 Against including everyone for visit (4,2)
25 Character of those from bottom to top (5)

Solution to previous puzzle

SUDOKU

		5						
		8	6		2			9
7	6		5			2		
		2				9		7
	5	3		1		6	2	
6		9				1		
		6			1		9	3
4			3		5	7		
						5		

No.SS6513 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	7	1	9	5	6	8	2
9	5	2	8	6	7	3	4	1
1	8	6	2	3	4	9	7	5
2	9	8	4	1	6	7	5	3
5	7	3	9	2	8	4	1	6
6	1	4	7	5	3	2	9	8
7	6	5	3	8	9	1	2	4
4	3	1	5	7	2	8	6	9
8	2	9	6	4	1	5	3	7

FAITH

Prahlada's bhakti

Learning is everything and putting our children through the right education is important. Hiranyakasipu was very fond of his son Prahlada, but wanted him raised in the manner of asuras. Prahlada continued to stay true to his early lessons, the ones he heard when he was still in the womb, as narrated by Narada, said Damal S. Perundevi. Therefore, when his father asked him about the best lessons he received from his teachers, the young boy discoursed on how one should learn to develop bhakti.

"Hearing about Vishnu (*shravanam*), singing about Him (*kirtanam*), remembering Him (*smaranam*), serving Him (*padasevanam*), worshipping Him (*archanam*), saluting Him (*vandanam*), being His servant (*dasyam*), being His comrade (*sakhyam*), and surrendering oneself and everything that is one's own to Him (*atmanivedhanam*) are the nine aspects of bhakti or god-love. If a man could be trained to practice devotion characterised by these nine features, that indeed would be the highest education he could have," Prahlada said.

A furious Hiranyakasipu said there was no other god but himself, but Prahlada's faith was unshakable. When Hiranyakasipu asks, "Where is that Lord of the world that you speak of, if there is any such other than me?", an unruffled Prahlada says, "Everywhere." Pointing to a pillar, the asura asks, "Is he in this pillar then?" and the son quietly replies, "I see him there too." Prahlada constantly thought of God (*smaranam*) and this fetched him the desired result. Sri Hari, taking the avatar of Nrisimha, burst forth from the pillar, proving that He is ever ready to rush to the aid of his devotees.

INBRIEF

Rupee depreciates sharply by 42 paise against U.S. dollar

Continuing its decline for the second day on Wednesday, the rupee fell sharply by 42 paise to 84.77 against the U.S. dollar - the biggest single day fall in a month on account of geopolitical concerns and a stronger dollar index, analysts said. "Easing of trade tensions has allowed dollar to rebound. Consistent dollar demand from oil importers has exerted downward pressure on the rupee over the past two days," said Dilip Parmar, senior research analyst, HDFC Securities.

Punjab National Bank Q4 net profit surges 52% to ₹4,567 cr.

Public sector Punjab National Bank Ltd. (PNB) reported net profit surged 51.7% to ₹4,567 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, from ₹3,010 crore a year earlier. Net interest income (NII) for the quarter increased marginally to ₹10,757 crore from ₹10,363 crore in the year earlier period. For FY25, net profit surged 102% year on year to ₹16,630 crore. NII for FY25 was at ₹42,782 crore, recording a growth of 6.7% on a year-on-year basis.

HUDCO FY25 net profit rises 28% to ₹2,709 crore

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), for the financial year ended March 31, 2025, reported a 28% growth in net profit to ₹2,709 crore compared with ₹2,117 crore in the previous year. Revenue from operations recorded a year-on-year growth of 32.46% to ₹10,311.29 crore. Loan book grew 55% YoY from ₹92,654 crore to ₹1,24,828 crore. Net non-performing assets (NPAs) reduced from 0.36% to 0.25% year-on-year.

India-U.K. goods trade surged 60% in eight years; imports nearly doubled

Electrical machinery, N-reactors, boilers & machinery, mineral fuels & oils, pearls, precious & semi-precious stones, pharma make up nearly half of what India exports to the U.K.; machinery, engineering goods to see strong growth with FTA in place

TCA Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's total merchandise trade with the U.K. has grown steadily over the years, touching $19.3 billion in 2024-25 up to January 2025. However, import growth has outpaced that of exports by a significant margin.

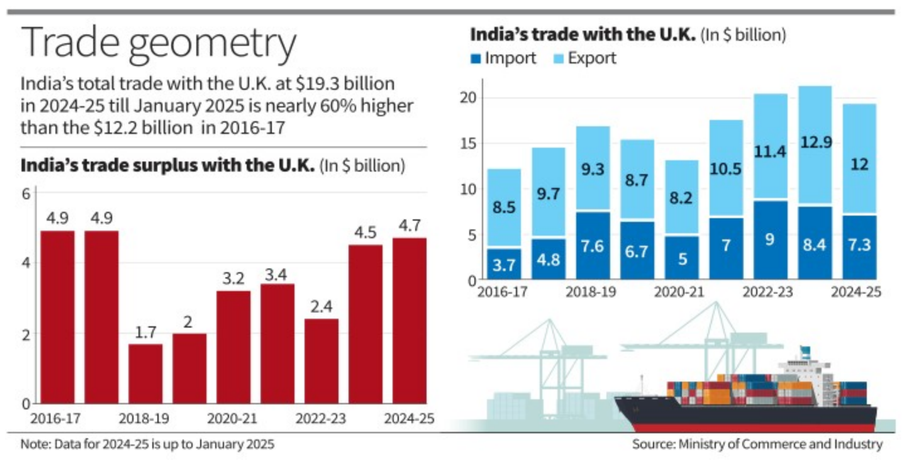
Notably, trade in both directions is highly concentrated in just a few sectors, data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows.

An analysis by *The Hindu* shows that just five product categories – electrical machinery (15.3%), nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (11.6%), mineral fuels and oils (9.1%), pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (7%), and pharma products (5.4%) – together make up nearly half of what India exports to the U.K. The largest category in this, machinery and engineering goods, is likely to see strong growth following implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.K. announced on Tuesday, according to industry participants.

"With the FTA in place, engineering exports to the U.K. are projected to nearly double over the next five years, reaching around $7.55 billion by 2029-30," said Pankaj Chadha, chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India. "The U.K. is currently India's sixth largest engineering export destination." The import situation is even more concentrated. The top five product categories – pearls, precious & semi-precious stones (30.5%), nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery (17.4%), electrical machinery (7.2%), iron and steel (5%), and aluminium and its articles (4.5%) – together make up 65% of India's imports from the U.K. India's total trade with the U.K. stood at $12.2 billion in 2016-17, the earliest year for which the ministry provides data. Of this, India's exports stood at $8.5 billion and imports were $3.7 billion.

This has grown significantly over the years. Total trade, at $19.3 billion in 2024-25 up to January 2025, is nearly 60% higher than its level in 2016-17. Exports have grown 41% to $12 billion.

However, over this period, imports grew nearly 100% to $7.3 billion.



U.S. FDA tightens scrutiny on suppliers to America

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has decided to inspect unannounced all foreign facilities manufacturing food, essential medicines and other medical products for American consumers.

The move builds on the agency's office of Inspection and Investigations Foreign Unannounced Inspection Pilot programme in India and China. It is aimed to ensure foreign companies receive the same level of regulatory oversight and scrutiny as domestic companies, U.S. FDA said on Tuesday.

"For too long, foreign companies have enjoyed a double standard – given advance notice before facility inspections, while American manufacturers are held to rigorous standards with no such warning. That ends today. This is a key step for the FDA as part of a broader strategy to get foreign inspections back on track," FDA Commissioner Martin A. Makary said in a statement.

U.S. FDA inspection and approval of the facilities is crucial for pharma firms, both aspiring to and already supplying to the U.S.

In India, there are 650 U.S. FDA compliant plants, the largest outside the U.S., according to a recent Bain & Company report.

The U.S. is the largest market for Indian pharma accounting for one-third of the total pharma exports. For 11 months ended February, pharma exports to the U.S. rose 14.29% to $8953.37 million ($7833.75 million). India's total pharma exports in FY25 increased 9.39% to $30467.32 million. Granular details of the exports in March is not yet public.

Cautious reaction

Sources in the Indian pharma industry, however, said not all U.S. FDA inspections are unannounced. While some are surprise inspections, there are also those undertaken at periodic intervals. For long, the pharma companies have been underscoring the need for U.S. FDA to intimate in advance and inspect. According to the report, India has more than 10,000 manufacturing facilities of over 3,000 pharma companies.

It is the largest supplier of generic medicines globally, supplying one in five generic drugs sold.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,747	0.13
US Dollar	84.77	-0.49
Gold	1,00,750	1.00
Brent oil	61.33	-1.62

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2353.10	-0.90
Adani Ports	1338.20	17.40
Apollo Hosp	6983.00	-26.00
Asian Paints	2334.10	-83.90
Axis Bank	1161.30	-0.10
Bajaj Auto	7849.00	-96.50
Bajaj Finserv	2030.30	-5.50
Bajaj Finance	8986.50	189.00
Bharat Elec	309.95	-0.55
Bharti Airtel	1896.80	-4.20
Cipla	1508.80	-2.60
Coal India	383.30	5.05
Dr Reddys Lab	1160.70	0.30
Eicher Motors	5489.00	-26.00
Eternal Ltd.	236.90	4.26
Grasim Ind	2699.90	-28.80
HCL Tech	1563.30	-15.80
HDFC Bank	1945.60	13.90
HDFC Life	723.90	1.30
Hero MotoCorp	3868.00	-4.60
Hindalco	636.30	6.25
Hind Unilever	2370.80	-11.00
ICICI Bank	1435.40	3.80
IndusInd Bank	833.80	2.00
Infosys	1508.30	-3.20
ITC	431.15	-4.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	256.10	4.90
JSW Steel	966.10	-1.40
Kotak Bank	2094.90	20.90
L&T	3321.40	-12.60
M&M	3119.90	51.50
Maruti Suzuki	12633.00	52.00
NestleIndia	2338.40	-18.10
NTPC	342.05	0.25
ONGC	238.67	1.67
PowerGrid Corp	311.10	3.50
Reliance Ind	1406.00	-14.90
SBI Life	1744.50	18.50
State Bank	776.10	2.00
Shriram Finance Ltd.	636.65	13.20
Sun Pharma	1781.30	-37.80
TataConsumerProduct	1146.00	-9.30
Tata Motors	680.30	32.10
Tata Steel	146.00	1.56
TCS	3445.10	-14.90
Tech Mahindra	1495.20	-1.00
Titan	3338.90	39.60
Trent Ltd.	5233.00	9.00
UltraTech Cement	11658.00	-35.00
Wipro	244.04	2.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.63	84.95
Euro	96.22	96.59
British Pound	113.03	113.46
Japanese Yen (100)	59.09	59.32
Chinese Yuan	11.71	11.76
Swiss Franc	102.78	103.17
Singapore Dollar	65.56	65.82
Canadian Dollar	61.38	61.62
Malaysian Ringitt	19.94	20.04
Australian Dollar	54.83	55.04

Source:Indian Bank

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-B (SALE EXTENSION)

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-22(B)/24-25 Dt: 07.05.2025

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-22/24-25 dt 21.03.25 **"Structural Repairs to SDMH at Sullurupeta, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-081, Est. cost ₹ 7.49Lakhs); **"Periodical testing of water and sewage samples in SHAR, Sullurupeta Housing colonies and other inside facilities at SDSC SHAR for the years 2025-26 & 2026-27"** (T/C-24-082, Est. cost ₹ 7.89 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 19.05.2025.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE INVITED:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/220-33kV-100 MVA Trf./25-26/04 Date: 08.05.2025	**220/33 kV, 100 MVA Power Transformers.** Bid documents can be downloaded from 08.05.2025, 03:00 P.M.
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/HV & EHV Cables/25-26/05 Date: 08.05.2025	**HV and EHV Cables.** Bid documents can be downloaded from 08.05.2025, 11:00 A.M.
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/Control Cables/25-26/06 Date: 08.05.2025	**Control Cables.** Bid documents can be downloaded from 08.05.2025, 11:00 A.M.

For all above mentioned NITs, bids shall be submitted (online) up to 04:00 P.M., 03.06.2025.
Visit the following websites- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T9007(3)/2025

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली
(संसद के अधिनियम के तहत राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
(An Institution of National Importance enacted by an Act of Parliament, Ministry of Education, Government of India)
प्रवेश एवम परीक्षा विभाग ADMISSION AND EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR THE SESSION - 2025-26

A. Ph.D. PROGRAMMES (FULL TIME & PART TIME):

Applications are invited for the Ph.D. Program for the available vacancies in various Departments as follows:

S. No.	Department	Seats Available
1	Department of Architecture	31
2	Department of Physical Planning	1
3	Department of Building Engineering & Management	4
4	Department of Housing	3
5	Department of Landscape Architecture	2
6	Department of Regional Planning	1
7	Department of Transport Planning	7
8	Department of Urban Planning	15
9	Department of Environmental Planning	1

The application forms for the Ph.D. Program may be downloaded from the website of the School, www.spa.ac.in. The completed application form must be submitted along with Doctoral Research Proposal, Photocopy of receipt, after making online payment via SBI Collect, accessible from www.spa.ac.in. The Non-refundable application fee for Indian National is Rs.2,500 and for foreign nationals/NRI/PIO is US$ 300 (payable in INR equivalent to US$ 300). For the Odd Semester, starting July 2025, the last date for submission of completed application forms is 30th May 2025. Duly completed applications MUST reach on or before the last date at "Admission and Examination Section, School of Planning and Architecture, 4-B, IP Estate, New Delhi- 110002". The date for interviewing the eligible candidates shall be communicated separately. Full time Ph.D. Scholars are eligible to receive scholarship as per applicable rules.

B. MASTER'S PROGRAMMES:

Admission to Master's Program is through 'Joint Admission for Architecture and Planning-Post Graduate' (JAAP-PG 2025). Candidates may visit: http://jaappg.admission.nic.in.

JAAP-PG 2025 https://jaappg.admissions.nic.in

C. BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES:

Admission to Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) and Bachelor of Planning (B. Plan.) will be made through JEE (Main) 2025. Candidates admitted to B.Arch. will have the option of exiting the B.Arch. Program for the award of 3- year bachelor's degree of 'Bachelor of Building Science' (B.B.Sc.) after the successful completion of Third year, i.e. Sixth Semester. Candidates admitted to B. Plan. will have an option for 5-year 'Integrated Bachelor of Planning-Master of Planning' with specialization in Transport Planning/Environment Planning/Housing/Regional Planning/Urban Planning after7th Semester. Reservation to various categories is duly complied with as per Government of India directions applicable to CFTIs.

D. FN/NRI/PIO (BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES):

- Foreign National/Non Resident Indian/ Person of Indian Origin candidates desirous for admission in Bachelor's and Master's Programme may visit DASA website, https://dasanit.org/dasa2025/
- As per COA guidelines, students admitted under B.Arch. Course without clearing COA approved aptitude test of JEE in Architecture will not be eligible for Registration with COA.

NOTE: Candidates may visit SPA New Delhi website www.spa.ac.in or contact: admission@spa.ac.in or helpline no. 8527738564 (on all working days from 10am to 5pm) for any clarifications.

Sd/-
Registrar

Types of Hypertension and Why It Matters

When we think of high blood pressure (hypertension), it's often viewed as a single condition. In reality, hypertension occurs in multiple forms, each with its own causes, risks, and treatment needs. Identifying the type of hypertension not only helps uncover hidden health concerns but also guides doctors towards appropriate tests and tailored treatment. Early detection can significantly reduce the risk of long-term damage to vital organs like your heart, kidneys, brain, and eyes.

Primary vs Secondary Hypertension

Approximately 90% of people with high BP have **primary (essential) hypertension,** which develops gradually and isn't linked to a specific disease. Contributing factors include genetics, ageing, high salt intake, sedentary lifestyle, stress and weight gain. Long-term management involves a combination of lifestyle changes and medication, where necessary.

The remaining 10% have **secondary hypertension,** often seen in younger individuals. This form has an identifiable cause such as chronic kidney disease, hormonal disorders (e.g., Cushing's syndrome), obstructive sleep apnoea, or certain medications (steroids, contraceptive pills). Addressing the root cause can lead to significant improvement or even normalisation of high BP.

Uncontrolled hypertension results in ~1.6 million deaths annually in India – 57% related to stroke and 24% to heart disease (National Health Mission)

Dr Mehta Yadagiri
Senior Consultant – Health Check Physician
Apollo Hospitals – BG Road, Bengaluru

Other Types of Hypertension

Some individuals show elevated BP only in a medical setting. Known as **white coat hypertension,** this temporary rise is often triggered by anxiety or stress during clinical visits. At home, their readings return to normal. Though it may seem harmless, this condition still carries cardiovascular risks, especially when combined with other factors like diabetes or high cholesterol.

Conversely, **masked hypertension** is when BP appears normal during clinic visits but remains consistently high in daily life. Stress, poor sleep, smoking, and missed medications are common contributors. Both forms require 24-hour ambulatory BP monitoring and should not be ignored as they carry long-term health risks.

Then there's **resistant hypertension,** where BP remains high despite taking three or more antihypertensive medications, including a diuretic. Possible causes include secondary causes like kidney problems or hormonal disorders, poor medication adherence, or an ineffective drug regimen. It's a warning sign that calls for further investigations such as blood tests, imaging, and a review of lifestyle and treatment strategies.

Hypertension During Pregnancy

High BP can also develop during pregnancy, even in women with no history of hypertension. Causes may include hormonal shifts, vascular changes, or placental interactions with the mother's body. **Gestational hypertension** arises after 20 weeks of pregnancy and usually resolves within 6-12 weeks post-delivery. However, in ~25% of cases, elevated BP may persist.

A more severe condition is **preeclampsia,** characterised by high BP, protein in the urine, and swelling (oedema). Women with preeclampsia are at higher risk for future hypertension, heart disease and stroke – even if their BP normalises postpartum. Monitoring and follow-up care are vital to manage future risks.

The Bottom Line

Hypertension is not a one-size-fits-all condition but a spectrum of disorders. Understanding the type you have enables more precise, effective treatment and better prevention of serious complications. When it comes to high BP, awareness truly is a life-saving step.

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

WASHINGTON

Trump tells India and Pakistan to 'stop' clashes, volunteers to help

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump called for India and Pakistan to halt their fighting. "I want to see them stop," Mr. Trump said at the White House, adding: "We get along with both countries very well, good relationships with both, and I want to see it stop. And if I can do anything to help, I will be there." AFP

GENEVA

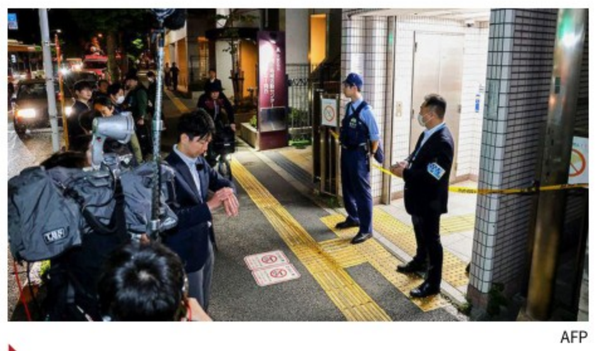
'Israel's plans threaten continued existence of Palestinians in Gaza'

AFP

The UN rights chief voiced deepened concerns that Israel's plans to expand its offensive in Gaza aim to create conditions threatening Palestinians' "continued existence" in the territory. "There is no reason to believe that doubling down on military strategies will now succeed," said Volker Turk, the UN Human Rights chief. AFP

TOKYO

Man held after several injured in a knife attack at Tokyo Metro



AFP

A man was apprehended in Tokyo after an alleged knife attack on the subway system on Wednesday that injured several people. The Tokyo Metro's Namboku line was suspended after the incident. Several people had been injured, although the severity of their wounds was not immediately clear. AFP

SANAA

Yemen's Houthis to keep attacking Israeli ships despite deal with U.S.

AFP

Yemen's Houthi rebels will continue targeting Israeli ships in the Red Sea, an official told said, despite a ceasefire that ended weeks of intense U.S. strikes on the Iran-backed group. A day after the Houthis agreed to stop firing on ships plying the key trade route off their shores, the official said Israel was excluded from the deal. AFP

Ukraine drones hit Moscow as world leaders arrive for Red Square parade

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot cancelled more than 100 flights to and from Moscow, while more than 140 flights were delayed as planes were repeatedly grounded; air defences repelled an attack by nine drones close to the city, says Mayor Sobyanin

Associated Press

Attacks by Ukrainian long-range drones caused flight disruption at Moscow's main airports for a third straight day on Wednesday, authorities said, as Russia prepared to receive the Chinese President and other foreign leaders for the annual Victory Day military parade in Red Square.

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot cancelled more than 100 flights to and from Moscow, while more than 140 flights were delayed as planes were repeatedly grounded, flight data showed. Russian air defences repelled an attack by nine drones close to the Russian capital, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

Special day: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro meets Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin on Wednesday. AFP

Though Ukrainian drones have targeted Moscow in the past, the sustained attacks appeared designed to disrupt preparations for the 80th anniversary celebrations in Moscow marking victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War.

Security is expected to be tight at Friday's centerpiece parade. Foreign dignitaries, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, were due to arrive on Wednesday.

Russia plans a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire to coincide with the celebrations in Moscow. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last weekend that his country can not provide security assurances to foreign officials planning to visit the Moscow events. Russia could stage provocations and later attempt to blame Ukraine, he said.

Flight restrictions across Russia due to Ukrainian drone threats, including temporary closures at airports in Moscow, St Petersburg, Sochi and elsewhere, affected at least 350 flights and disrupted at least 60,000 passengers, the Russian Tour Operators Association said.

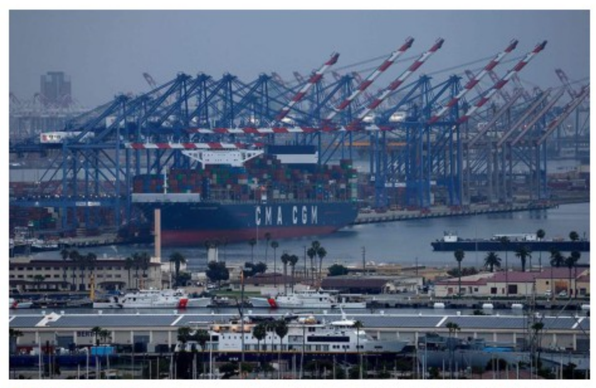
Russian public holidays in early May, including the days around Victory Day, is a popular time for many Russians to go on vacation and travel abroad.

China to defend 'justice' in looming trade talks with U.S.

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China vowed on Wednesday to defend "justice" in upcoming trade talks with the United States – their first since Donald Trump unveiled sweeping tariffs that shook global markets.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer will attend the talks in Switzerland on behalf of the United States, their offices said.



Extreme ways: Donald Trump's administration has imposed tariffs totalling 145% on goods from China. GETTY IMAGES

De-escalation first

Mr. Bessent told *Fox News* that the sides would hold meetings on Saturday and Sunday, intended to lay the groundwork for future negotiations.

"We will agree what we're going to talk about. My sense is that this will be about de-escalation, not about the big trade deal," Mr. Bessent told *The Ingraham Angle* show.

Vice Premier He Lifeng will attend on Beijing's behalf, China's Foreign Ministry announced.

The Commerce Ministry in Beijing vowed the country would "defend justice" and stand by its principles.

China's Foreign Ministry also said the talks were taking place at the "request of the U.S." and that its position that Washington must lift tariffs was "unchanged".

At least 92 killed across Gaza as Israel ramps up offensive

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 92 people, including women, children and two journalists, officials said on Wednesday, as Israel prepares to ramp up its campaign in the strip, with the devastating war now entering its 20th month.

Two Israeli air strikes on Wednesday targeted an area in central Gaza, killing at least 33 people and wounding 86, including several children, though the actual death toll is likely higher.

Two air strikes targeted an area in central Gaza, killing 33 and wounding 86, including children

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a plan to intensify its operations in the Palestinian enclave, which would include seizing Gaza, holding on to captured territories, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza and taking control of aid distribution along with private security companies.

Senior cardinal urges conclave voters to select a Pope who will seek unity

Associated Press
VATICAN CITY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

The dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests and find a Pope who prizes unity.

Future course: Cardinals attend the Holy Mass presided over by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re in the Vatican on Wednesday. REUTERS

From the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, Mr. Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the Pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later on Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surrendered and airwaves around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communications until they find a new leader.

Francis named 108 of the 133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries such as Mongolia, Sweden and Tonga that had never had a cardinal before.

His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal electors and include younger ones from the "global south" has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense.

Dissanayake's party continues winning streak in local polls

Associated Press
COLOMBO

The National People's Power led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Wednesday emerged as the largest party in 265 out of 339 local municipal councils across Sri Lanka despite failing to win capital Colombo's body.

However, the National People's Power (NPP) party's ability to form administrations in those 265 bodies is in doubt as the combined opposition groups have more members than NPP in multiple councils.

The election commission data showed that the ruling NPP garnered over 4.5 million votes or 43% of the votes, drastically down from the 68% polled at the parliamentary election held in November last year.

The main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) won just 14 of the 339 councils earning 21% vote.

In the Tamil dominated north, where the NPP recorded resounding wins in the November parliamentary election, the main Tamil party, the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK), performed creditably, the official data showed.

Sport

India rides on Jemimah's century, beats South Africa to enter the summit clash

WOMEN'S TRI-SERIES

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Riding on Jemimah Rodrigues' career-best century and half-tons from opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma, India defeated a fighting South Africa by 23 runs to set up a title clash with Sri Lanka in the women's tri-nation ODI series here on Wednesday.

Jemimah's blazing 123 (101b, 15x4, 1x6) saw India post a huge 337 for nine before the bowlers, led by pacer seamer Amanjot Kaur (three for 59), restricted the opponents to 314 for seven.

India ended its round-robin phase with six points from four games. Sri Lanka has four from three games and could get two more points if it beats South Africa on Friday. SA, after losing three consecutive games, is out of contention. Jemimah, who anchored the team's innings with her second ODI hundred, shared an 88-run stand with opener Smriti (51, 63b, 6x4) and a 122-run partnership with Deepti Sharma (93, 84b, 10x2, 2x6). Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur chipped in with a cameo (28, 6x4).

On song: Jemimah's blazing 123 powered India to a commanding 337. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the run chase, SA lost opener Lara Goodall early but Tazmin Brits (26) and Miane Smit (39) put on a 63-run partnership.

With Harmanpreet tactfully utilising her bowling resources, SA batters found it tough to go for the big hits.

Annerie Dercksen (81, 80b, 5x4, 2x6) did try to push the scoring rate up during a 72-run stand for the sixth wicket with stand-in skipper Chloe Tryon (67, 43b, 4x4, 5x6), but with the asking rate creeping up steadily, they just could not keep pace.

The scores: India 337/9 in 50 overs (Jemimah 123, Deepti 93, Smriti 51) bt South Africa 314/7 in 50 overs (Dercksen 81, Tryon 67, Amanjot 3/59). **Toss:** South Africa; **PoM:** Jemimah.

INBRIEF

Chhetri in list of probables for Asian Cup qualifiers

The probables:
Goalkeepers: Hrithik Tiwari, Vishal Kaith, Gurmeet Singh Chahal and Amrinder Singh.
Defenders: Naorem Roshan Singh, Rahul Bheke, Konsham Chinglensana Singh, Anwar Ali, Thangjam Boris Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Asish Rai, Subhasish Bose, Mehtab Singh, Tekcham Abhishek Singh and Nikhil Prabhu.
Midfielders: Suresh Singh Wangjam, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Ayush Dev Chhetri, Udanta Singh Kumam, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Ashique Kuruniyan and Brandon Fernandes.
Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Irfan Yadwad, Manvir Singh, Suhail Ahmad Bhat and Lallianzuala Chhangte.
Head coach: Manolo Marquez.

India men and women reach compound final

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

The top-ranked Indian men's and women's compound teams reached their respective finals to ensure two medals for the country in the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Wednesday.

Both will meet Mexico in the finals.

The results: Compound: Elimination: Team: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: India (Abhishek Verma, Rishabh Yadav, Ojas Deotale) got a bye; **Quarterfinals: India bt Great Britain 239-232** (59-60, 60-58, 60-57, 60-57); **Semifinals: India bt Denmark 232-231** (57-60, 58-58, 60-57, 57-56). **Women: Pre-quarterfinals:** India (Madhura Dhamangaonkar, V. Jyothi Surekha, Chikitha Taniparthi) got a bye; **Quarterfinals: India bt Kazakhstan 232-229** (58-58, 58-56, 59-59, 57-56); **Semifinals:** India bt Great Britain 232-230 (58-59, 57-59, 59-56, 58-56). **Recurve: Qualification: Men: Individual:** B. Dhiraj (ninth, 677), Tarundeep Rai (28th, 666), Atanu Das (57th, 652), Parth Salunkhe (60th, 651); **Team:** India (seventh, 1995). **Women: Individual:** Deepika Kumari (12th, 655), Ankita Bhakat (17th, 652), Anshika Kumari (29th, 642), Simranjeet Kaur (39th, 637); **Team:** India (third, 1949); **Mixed team:** India (eighth, 1332).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

PULLED UP

Hardik and Nehra fined for breaching IPL Code of Conduct

EMMANUAL YOGINI

MI captain Hardik Pandya was handed a hefty fine for slow over-rate while GT head coach Ashish Nehra copped a financial penalty and a demerit point for conduct "contrary to the spirit of the game." Hardik was fined ₹24 lakh while the other MI players were each fined 25% of their match fee.

HIGH STAKES

MI will take every remaining game as a playoff contest: Jayawardene

EMMANUAL YOGINI

MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene said his side erred in execution and lost the IPL game despite being in control against GT, adding the team will treat every remaining match as a "playoff" from hereon. "It is margins, but I probably, both teams made quite a few mistakes out there in the middle and we probably made more than them," he said.

NEW FACES

Mayank comes in place of injured Padikkal; Atal replaces Brook

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru signed Mayank Agarwal as an injury replacement for Devdutt Padikkal for the rest of IPL 2025. Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals picked Sediqullah Atal as a replacement for Harry Brook for the remainder of the season. England batter Brook opted out of the tournament due to personal reasons.

CHANGE OF VENUE

PBKS-MI match, scheduled for May 11, set to be shifted to Mumbai

R.V. MOORTHY

The May 11 match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians is set to be shifted from Dharamshala to Mumbai and the new date for the match will be updated soon, according to BCCI sources. Meanwhile, the board has received clearance to host the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals on Thursday.

Skipper Rohit calls it quits in the longest format

The decision, announced through an Instagram story, doesn't come as a surprise as the curtains were drawing close after a poor Australia tour; the 38-year-old will continue to play in ODIs

CRICKET

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

On a Wednesday night when most eyes were on a tense border, Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Tests, through an Instagram story.

Even if his statement seemed a trifle too fast, it wasn't exactly a surprise.

Since Wednesday evening, news had trickled in about the selectors not preferring him as captain for the England tour commencing in June.

At 38, and after a poor tour of Australia (31 from five innings), a series during which he dropped himself from the final Test at Sydney, the curtains were drawing close on the Mumbaikar's days in Tests.

Having already retired from T20Is, Rohit, however, will continue to play in ODIs. In the blue-shade, Rohit is one of cricket's greats. Prolific with the bat and a mind-boggling strike-rate to boot, he dominated ODIs (11,168 runs), and on March 9, led India to an ICC Champions Trophy title in Dubai.

With a superb 76 against New Zealand, he was also adjudged the 'Player of the Match'. In the current IPL, he has maintained a frenetic tempo after an initial sluggish phase with the Mumbai Indians.

Natural successor

Hailing from the illustrious Bombay school of batsmanship that was lit up by Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Sachin Tendulkar at varying points, Rohit was seen as their natural successor.

He found his mark in T20Is and ODIs instantaneously and was part of the squad that won the 2007 ICC World T20 in South Africa.

In Tests, he had to bide his time as a freak injury scuppered his debut in 2010.

Eventually, his maiden foray happened in 2013 against the West Indies at the Eden Gardens and he struck a 177 while stepping in at number six. He always had those extra micro-seconds to time his shots, and there was an ease with which he countered the red cherry.

But it was a start-stop career in Tests unlike the remarkable consistency he revealed in ODIs.

But the moment he was locked in as an opener, a role he did with aplomb in the abridged formats, Rohit found a second wind. He batted with confidence and had a sense of certainty outside the off-stump.

Law of averages

And just as a Test career eased past his mid-30s, the law of averages caught up. The runs did not flow despite his 103 against England at Dharamshala in March last year. With 4301 runs from 67 Tests averaging 40.57, and 12 tons, Rohit had a reasonably fine Test career but it will obviously pale when compared to the gargantuan stature he acquired in cricket's shorter versions.

For now, he is there in the IPL and is available to play the ODIs, in which he leads.

Rohit's Test journey

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Overall	**67**	**116**	**4301**	**212**	**40.57**	**12/18**
Home	34	55	**2535**	212	51.73	10/8
Away	31	57	**1644**	127	31.01	2/10
Neutral	2	4	**122**	43	30.50	0/0

BY OPPONENT

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Australia	15	27	**739**	120	28.42	1/3
England	14	26	**1147**	161	47.79	4/4
South Africa	11	20	**738**	212	38.84	3/0
New Zealand	9	17	**515**	82	36.78	0/5
Sri Lanka	7	12	**509**	102*	50.90	1/4
West Indies	6	7	**578**	177	96.33	3/2
Bangladesh	5	7	**75**	23	10.71	0/0

Saluting the leader

Thank you, captain. End of an era in whites! We are proud of you, Hitman
BCCI

Thank you for your bold leadership in Test cricket and the entertainment you provided to fans of the longest format
JAY SHAH

A master, a leader and a gem!
GAUTAM GAMBHIR

From a quiet fighter to a leader at the top, your journey in whites has been special. Proud of you
YUVRAJ SINGH

Mumbai cha Raja hangs up his Test whites. From pulling fast bowlers into the stands to leading with calm authority — Rohit Sharma's Test journey was worth every watch, every roar, every rise
MUMBAI CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The 2021 Test series in England will be remembered for your heroics
IRFAN PATHAN

Respect. Admiration. Gratitude. Rohit *bhai*, your journey in whites will always be cherished
WASHINGTON SUNDAR

Congratulations on a legendary Test career. You've made India proud
AMIT MISHRA

Congratulations on an amazing career and all your achievements in Tests
MUNAF PATEL

Your contribution to Indian cricket is immeasurable. From thrilling knocks to leading the team with passion and pride, you've given it your all
R.P. SINGH

Always my first skipper. Happy retirement
DHRUV JUREL

Noor, Brevis star as CSK dents KKR's hopes

Shining stars: Noor's spell helped CSK restrict KKR to 179 before Brevis' aggression put it on the road to victory. K.R. DEEPAK

IPL-18

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Chennai Super Kings rode on Dewald Brevis' magnificent half-century and Noor Ahamad's brilliant four-wicket haul to record a two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League match at the Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

Choosing to bat, KKR relied on its collective batting effort to post a challenging 179 for six.

CSK recovered from a precarious 60 for five to secure a thrilling victory and jolt the home team's chances of progressing.

At a divided house, reverberating with mini purple vuvuzelas and 'CSK, CSK' chants, the visiting team had a disastrous start. Barring the fourth over, the tourists lost a wicket in five of the first six overs as Harshit Rana claimed two of them.

Costly drop

Nonetheless, Brevis (52, 24b, 4x4, 4x6), after settling down, resurrected CSK's innings with some astounding shots in the 11th over as Vaibhav Arora leaked 6, 4, 4, 6, 6, 4.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi dropped the South African off the first ball of the over, which cost KKR dear.

After Brevis, clean-hitting impact player Shivam Dube (45, 40b, 2x4, 3x6) and the charismatic M.S. Dhoni played their roles well as CSK avenged its defeat and ended its four-match losing streak.

Earlier, captain Ajinkya Rahane and Sunil Narine ensured another productive PowerPlay, worth 67 for one, for KKR.

Rahane (48, 33b, 4x4, 2x6) sparkled again with lovely pick-up shots through the aerial route, predominantly on the leg-side.

Narine, who hammered 14 runs off R. Ashwin's first over, scored a quick 26 and contributed in a useful 58-run stand with Rahane.

Noor dealt a double blow in the eighth over by dismissing Narine and Raghuvanshi as Dhoni lived up to his reputation behind the stumps.

With some help from the pitch, the CSK spin trio – an efficient Noor, who kept the batters guessing with his craft and emerged as the best among the bowlers, a resilient Ashwin and an accurate Ravindra Jadeja – brought down KKR's run-rate.

After Jadeja removed Rahane, Manish Pandey (35 n.o., 28b, 1x4, 1x6) and Andre Russell (38, 21b, 4x4, 3x6), who again displayed his power, stitched together a crucial 28-ball 46-run partnership.

Next assignment

KKR: May 10 vs SRH
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: May 12 vs RR
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Noor b Kamboj 11 *(9b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Sunil Narine st. Dhoni b Noor 26 *(17b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Conway b Jadeja 48 *(33b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Dhoni b Noor 1 *(2b)*, Manish Pandey (not out) 36 *(28b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Andre Russell c Brevis b Noor 38 *(21b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Rinku Singh c Mhatre b Noor 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Ramandeep Singh (not out) 4 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-2): 6: Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Gurbaz, 1.3 overs), 2-69 (Narine, 7.1), 3-71 (Raghuvanshi, 7.4), 4-103 (Rahane, 12.2), 5-149 (Russell, 16.6), 6-167 (Rinku, 18.3).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Khaleel 2-0-14-0, Kamboj 3-0-38-1, Ashwin 3-0-19-0, Noor 4-0-31-4, Jadeja 4-0-34-1, Pathirana 4-0-39-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ayush Mhatre c Harshit b Vaibhav 0 *(2b)*, Devon Conway b Moeen 0 *(2b)*, Urvil Patel c Varun b Harshit 31 *(11b, 1x4, 4x6)*, R. Ashwin c Raghuvanshi b Harshit 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Varun 19 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Dewald Brevis c Rinku b Varun 52 *(25b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Shivam Dube **(Impact Player for Pathirana)** c Rinku b Vaibhav 45 *(40b, 2x4, 3x6)*, M.S. Dhoni (not out) 17 *(18b, 1x6)*, Noor Ahmad c Rinku b Vaibhav 2 (2b), Anshul Kamboj (not out) 4 (1b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 19.4 overs): 183.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Mhatre, 0.2), 2-25 (Conway, 1.5), 3-37 (Urvil, 2.6), 4-56 (Ashwin, 4.6), 5-60 (Jadeja, 5.2), 6-127 (Brevis, 12.1), 7-170 (Dube, 18.4), 8-172 (Noor, 18.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 3-0-48-3, Moeen 2-0-23-1, Harshit **(Impact Player for Pandey)** 4-0-43-2, Varun 4-0-18-2, Narine 4-0-28-0, Russell 2.4-0-22-0.

Toss: KKR.
PoM: Noor.
CSK won by two wickets with two balls to spare.

Questions loom over Kings' home match against Capitals

Anish Pathiyil
NEW DELHI

With the Indian Armed Forces striking terror targets across the border, and airlines halting operations in some parts of northern India till May 10, questions swirled around the fate of Punjab Kings' home fixture against Delhi Capitals in Dharamshala.

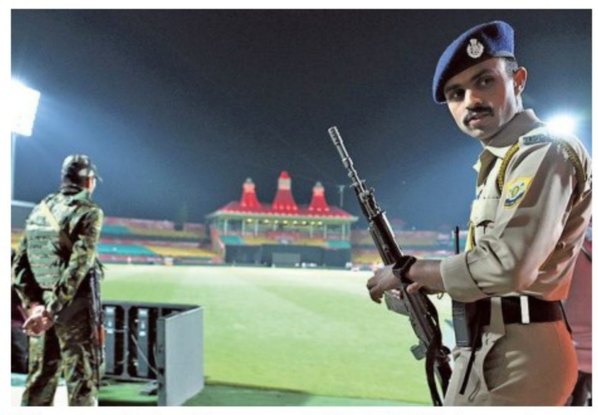
However, even as the situation evolves, the game on Thursday, which will have major implications on the teams' playoff chances, is set to go ahead.

Despite sitting just a point shy of the table summit, the Shreyas Iyer-led Kings can't afford a lazy recline heading into the final three encounters. Capitals needed help from the heavens to eke out a point against Sunrisers Hyderabad, and will have to up their performance in the remaining games against three of the leading four teams.

Uncapped stars Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya have given the host whirlwind starts in the PowerPlay this season, aggregating more than 750 runs together. Conversely, the Delhi-based side has been grappling for top-order contributions. All four batters who have opened the innings for the team have a below-30 average.

Punjab's Arshdeep Singh will have another opportunity to display his prowess with the moving ball in a stadium with vast open pockets for wind to blow across. The early swing on offer will also please veteran pacer Mitchell Starc, who leads the wicket-taking charts for the Capitals (14).

Teams batting first have won four out of five encounters since the ground returned as the Kings' second home after a ten-year hiatus. The 200-run mark has been scaled thrice during these contests. The Axar Patel-led side will hope it can replicate its 2023 performance when it defended 213 and injected uncertainty into the playoffs race.



Grim scenario: Security personnel at the HPCA Stadium on the eve of the match between Kings and Capitals. R.V. MOORTHY

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	**8**	3	0	**16**	0.793
Royal Challengers	11	**8**	3	0	**16**	0.482
Punjab Kings	11	**7**	3	1	**15**	0.376
Mumbai Indians	12	**7**	5	0	**14**	1.156
Delhi Capitals	11	**6**	4	1	**13**	0.362
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	**5**	6	1	**11**	0.193
Lucknow Super Giants	11	**5**	6	0	**10**	-0.469
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	11	**3**	7	1	**7**	-1.192
Rajasthan Royals (E)	12	**3**	9	0	**6**	-0.718
Chennai Super Kings (E)	12	**3**	9	0	**6**	-0.992

E: Eliminated ** Till the KKR-CSK match on May 7*

Today's match

PUNJAB KINGS vs. DELHI CAPITALS

Dharamshala, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **33**
PBKS **17** | DC **16**

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by **four wickets**, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Ecstasy and agony: Inter players peel off in celebrations after Frattesi's goal even as Barca's players look dejected. AFP

Inter does one over Barca in an epic semifinal

Inzaghi's men edge the Catalan giant in a rollercoaster encounter which sees the LaLiga leader mount a fightback and take the lead before Frattesi's strike in extra-time first half settles the issue

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
MILAN

Inter Milan beat Barcelona 4-3 after extra time in another rollercoaster encounter on Tuesday to reach a second Champions League final in three years.

In the end it took extra time, two astonishing Barcelona fightbacks and 13 goals – some of them mesmerising – to separate the two sides and see Inter prevail 7-6 on aggregate.

Substitute Davide Frattesi was the extra-time hero for Inter, firing home in the 99th minute to leave the Barcelona players slumped to the ground and all his Nerazzurri teammates – including those on the bench – racing to celebrate with him.

There was little sign of the drama to come at half-time, with Inter comfortably leading 2-0 after Lautaro Martinez scored and earned a penalty, which was converted by Hakan Calhanoglu.

But Barcelona had been in that position before, having gone 2-0 down early in the first leg last week before securing a thrilling 3-3 draw.

And Eric Garcia scored nine minutes after the break before Dani Olmo headed in the equaliser six minutes later.

Raphina appeared to have secured the win for Barcelona when he put the Spanish side ahead two minutes before full time, tucking away the rebound after Yann Sommer had saved his initial shot.

However, 37-year-old Francesco Acerbi astonishingly leveled in stoppage time – with his first goal in European competition – to add another 30 minutes onto the tantalising encounter.

Frattesi had proved crucial off the substitutes' bench before, both for Italy and Inter, and so he was again, controlling Mehdi Taremi's pass and dummying round Pau Cubarsi and curling past Wojciech Szczesny.

Superb save

Barcelona almost leveled again but Sommer made a fingertip save to push Lamine Yamal's shot past his post.

The result (semifinal, second leg): Inter Milan 4 (Martinez 21, Calhanoglu 45-pen, Acerbi 90+3, Frattesi 99) bt Barcelona 3 (Garcia 54, Olmo 60, Raphinha 87) (*after extra time, Inter wins 7-6 on aggregate*).

Srikanth and Unnati enter the second round

Press Trust of India
TAIPEI

K. Srikanth defeated Sankar Subramanian 21-16, 21-15 to enter the second round of Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Srikanth will face Ayush Shetty, who put it across third seed Lee Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei 21-17, 21-18.

M. Tharun outwitted Japan's Shogo Ogawa 21-17, 19-21, 21-12 to set up a meeting with Indonesia's Mohd. Zaki Ubaidillah. Meiraba Luwang Maisnam went down 21-23, 12-21 to Canada's Brian Yang. In women's singles, Unnati Hooda beat Anupama Upadhyaya 21-13, 21-17 and will take on Taipei's Lin Sih Yun next. Aakarshi Kashyap lost 9-21, 12-21 to Taipei's Hung Yi-Ting.

Abhay misses skeet final by one point

Sports Bureau

Abhay Singh Sekhon faltered with a 23 out of 25 in the last round and missed the skeet final by one point in the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia on Wednesday.

Abhay shot 121 out of 125, following rounds of 25, 24, 24, 25 on the first two days, before slipping in the fifth and final round. He missed the chance to make the final six out of 109 shooters. Elia Sdruccioli of Italy beat qualification topper Jesper Hansen (124) 55-52 for the gold. In women's skeet, Maheshwari Chauhan did shoot a perfect 25 in the last round, but missed the final by two points with her total of 118.

The results: Skeet: Men: 1. Elia Sdruccioli (Ita) 55 (123); 2. Jespen Hansen (Den) 52 (124); 3. Charalambos Chalkiadakis (Gre) 41 (123); 18. Abhay Singh Sekhon 121; 42. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 119; 75. Ritu Raj Bundela 114. **RPO:** Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 117.

Women: 1. Arina Kuznetsova (AIN) 54 (121); 2. Samantha Simonton (USA) 52 (120); 3. Che Yufei (Chn) 41 (121); 11. Maheshwari Chauhan 118; 17. Parinaaz Dhaliwal 116; 37. Yashasvi Rathore 112. **RPO:** Agrima Kanwar 109.

Veteran footballer Afzal passes away

Afzal.

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former India footballer Dost Mohammad Khan Afzal passed away at the age of 81 on Wednesday.

He had been struggling with age-related health issues, including a loss of memory, recently.

Afzal, one of the finest footballers to come out of Hyderabad, was a part of the gold-medal-winning team at the 1962 Asian Games held in Jakarta.

He featured in two matches in the tournament, where India, under the tutelage of the legendary coach Syed Abdul Rahim, defeated South Korea in the final to clinch the top step of the podium.

At club level, he most famously turned out for East Bengal.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vihaan slams century for CBT

Vihaan Sharma starred for CBT with a ton as it defeated Southern Cricketers in the Tiger Cup under-12 tournament.

The scores: CBT 333/4 in 27 overs (Vihaan Sharma 140, B.N. Partha 85) bt Southern Cricketers 75 in 22.3 overs (Bharathan Mohan 3/15).

Herons 211/6 in 30 overs (Jouhua Immanuel 95, Chayank Reddy 52) bt RKO3 78 in 22 Overs (R. Shashank 3/16).

The School of Cricket 142 in 27 overs (V.G. Ayush 40, Nikshit Jain 33) lost to Six Cricket Academy 144 for no loss in 14.4 Overs (Krishna Rajput 103).

RCA (Mysore) 215/5 in 30 overs (Vishwas Gowda 86, Aryan 63) bt Panthers Cricket Academy 195 in 25 Overs (Mohammed Ziyan 76, BC. Amit 3/25).

Shivam sizzles

Shivam scored 32 points to power Koramangala SC past Rajmahal BC 97-87 in the State 'B' division men's basketball championship on Wednesday.

All smiles: The winners of the Karnataka State ranking badminton tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Bharath SU 54 (Akshay 24, Kanishka 12) bt Bangalore Sporting 43 (Ayush 16); Koramangala SC 97 (Shivam 32, Shashank 20, Priyanshu 18) bt Rajmahal BC 87 (Anand 24, Sivarenjan 22, Shishir 14); IBBC 68 (Karan Aiyappa 20, Suresh 12) bt Mandya District 59 (Shashank Gowda 19, Amartya 12); GST & Customs 80 (Vishnu 23, Samyam 14) bt Vimanapura SC 64 (Ponappa 25, Rahul 13).

Balaharka pips Gopalan

Balaharka FC defeated Gopalan FC 2-1 in the KSFA 'C' division football league championship outing on Wednesday.

Other results: KSFA 'C' division: Raman Sports Academy bt Garden City FC 3-0; Ronaldo FC bt Crystal FC 3-0; TFF drew with Yelahanka Camp Boys 0-0.

BDFA 'A' division: Bangalore Reds FC bt J Sports FC 1-0.

Abhinav and Ashwaty triumph

Abhinav Garg and Ashwaty Varghese won the men's and women's titles respectively in the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State ranking badminton tournament.

The results: Finals: Men: Singles: Abhinav Garg bt Rudra Shahi 21-19, 21-15. **Doubles:** Ashith Surya and Vaibhav Vaibhav bt Kishal Ganapathy and A.R. Sumith 17-21, 21-19, 21-16. **Women: Singles:** Ashwaty Varghese bt Ilishaa Pal 19-21, 21-19, 21-18. **Doubles:** Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam bt Ashwaty Varghese and Diya Bheemaiah 21-12, 21-18. **Mixed doubles:** Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh bt Ganesh Vittalji and Trisha Hegde 21-14, 21-15.

U-19: Men: Singles: Abhinav Garg bt Hardik Divyansh 17-21, 21-7, 25-23. **Doubles:** S. Pavan and S. Punith bt Amith Raj Natraj and Hardik Divyansh 21-13, 21-17.

Women: Singles: Lakshya Rajesh bt Diya Bheemaiah 21-17, 21-18. **Doubles:** Nidhi Atmaram and Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt Navya Kolluri and Tanika Mohan 21-19, 21-12 .

Mixed doubles: Dhyan Santosh and Disha Santosh bt Chris Baptist and A.S. Mounitha 21-13, 21-18.